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OTTAWA metro®

WEEKEND, December 7-9, 2012

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Ban daycare pools: Inquest

Pool rules. Ministry of Education to review recommendations from inquest into child's drowning

ALEX BOUTILIER
alex.boutilier@metronews.ca

The father of Jérémie Audette thinks recommendations released Thursday could have prevented the toddler's death.

Jérémie, 2, drowned in a backyard pool at an unregistered daycare July 28, 2010. Asked if the 16 recommendations made by a coroner's inquest into the death would have prevented that, Alain Audette said: "In some certain ways, I think so, yes."

"It comes down to that day there was a lack of supervision and maybe hopefully this inquest will increase the ratio (of adults to children) in daycares," Audette told reporters outside the Ottawa Courthouse Thursday.

The five-person jury made recommendations to two levels of government.

They include banning swimming pools, even kiddie pools, at any private home daycare, making the ratio of adults to children at both licensed and unlicensed daycares the same, and requiring all unlicensed daycares to register with the provincial Ministry of Education.

The ministry could then do spot checks to ensure daycares follow the rules.

The recommendations would require the ministry to amend the Day Nurseries Act.

The jury also recommended all pools be completely enclosed, and that walls with entrances such as windows and doors not count as a fourth enclosure wall.

Audette said the inquest was difficult for his family.

"We're going to flip the page and concentrate on Jérémie himself and concentrate on our children right now," said Audette. "It's a big step and we're happy that it's over."

Jérémie Audette, left, is pictured in this undated Facebook photo. At right Jérémie's father, Alain Audette, speaks to reporters outside the Ottawa courthouse following the closing of the inquest into the toddler's death. FACEBOOK.COM/ALEX BOUTILIER/METRO

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NEWS

Cops probe suspicious death at 1189 Meadowlands Drive

Startling sounds. Neighbours heard screaming early Thursday morning

JOE LOFARO
joe.lofaro@metronews.ca

Police say a man is in custody following a suspicious death of another man whose body was found in a unit of a west-end apartment building Thursday morning.

Insp. Don Sweet told reporters police received a 911 call at 3:30 a.m. and responded to 1189 Meadowlands Dr. Upon arrival they found the deceased man and another man who they arrested.

He was sent to hospital for non-life-threatening injuries. He has since been released and is in police custody, Sweet said.

The relationship between the suspect and the victims is unknown.

Police are looking for more witnesses as they continue to investigate.

Resident Kyle Soikie said he woke up this morning when his dog started to bark due to a commotion on the floor above his second-storey apartment.

"I heard yelling. I wasn't (sure) what to make of it," he said. "I thought it was maybe a domestic kind of problem."

He said he looked out his window and went back to bed. About 30 minutes later, he saw police cruisers parked outside his building.

"It's a little surprising, I guess," he said. "Everyone's pretty friendly around here."

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the Ottawa police major crime unit.

On the web

For more local news go to metronews.ca

An Ottawa police officer prepares to duck under a strip of police tape in a stairwell of a low-rise apartment building at 1189 Meadowlands Dr., where police were investigating a suspicious death on Thursday. JOE LOFARO/METRO

Ont. must be careful in fight over Bill 115: Lawyer

Ontario Minister of Education Laurel Broten. COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario's Minister of Education should tread carefully if she wants the province to withstand a legal challenge to Bill 115, said labour experts Thursday after the minister said she would not order teachers on strike back to work.

"If there hasn't been any impact to students, it's harder to say that the intervention was justified," said Pamela Chapman, a labour-law professor at the University of Ottawa. "Cases suggest that before you can fairly intervene, you have to try really hard to get a bargain."

On Thursday Minister Laurel Broten said she would not use her extraordinary powers under Bill 115 to prevent the teachers from walking out, adding that if the strikes lasted longer than one day, the province would have to reassess its position.

Ontario elementary teachers are staging walkouts throughout December to draw attention to Bill 115, which gives the province the power to end strikes and impose a wage freeze on teachers in new contracts for two years.

"To take away collective-bargaining rights could be a breach of the Charter of Rights," said Chapman. Several teachers' unions are challenging the bill in court, and the case could travel as high as Canada's Supreme Court before it is resolved.

Yet if either the province or the unions take action that will have a large impact on the school year, their case could lose credence with the court, she said.

One day strikes are a sign that teachers are sensitive to public perception of the strike and how further action would be looked on during litigation. "They've had a fair amount of public support," she said. "They don't want to alienate that."

GRAHAM LANKTREE/METRO

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Blind and developmentally disabled members of the TELCI group homes in Nepean on an outing to Tim Hortons. Three group homes operated by the Ottawa organization are set to close in 2013. COURTESY OF TELCI

Disabled family will be ripped apart by group home closure, say staff

OASIS. Unionized staff dispute the need to close group home for blind, disabled people

GRAHAM LANKTREE
graham.lanktree@metronews.ca

More than 15 blind and developmentally disabled Ottawans will have their lives shattered when their Nepean group home closes in 2013, staff said Thursday.

"Most do not have their own families," said Joyce Nolan, a developmental service worker who has worked at the three Nepean group homes of the Therapeutic and Educational Living Centres Inc. for over 22 years. "The residents who live at the home are their family. These people are being ripped away from the only family they've ever known."

Many of the residents, who need 24-hour care, have been living together in one form or another for the past 30 years, said Nolan, adding that the organization offers the only service of its kind in eastern Ontario.

"They're going to be put into other homes," she said of the group, but was doubtful other local organizations would be able to offer the same quality of care. "They're not set up to serve both impairments. We have tactile and auditory tools, so they can make a cup of coffee and do the laundry."

TELCI announced to the residents Tuesday that it would close its doors in the new year and would work to find them all new organizations to stay with, said the group's chair, Sean Van Liempt, Wednesday.

Funding for developmental services in Ontario has not budged since 2009 and all are coping with inflation and frozen funding, he said. Years' worth of accumulated debt is also forcing the organization to shutter.

Roughly 12,000 people in Ontario are on waiting lists to get into these services, said Jane Joris, president of Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs (OASIS), an organization that oversees the work of groups like TELCI provincially. She said some families have even abandoned their disabled children at respite services.

"There are two cases in the press, but there's more happening. Families drop of their children for a couple days and then say they can't take them back."

Homeless services

Finding new organizations to take them remains doubtful, said Joris of OASIS.

- "Other groups are at capacity. They can't provide more services with the funding that they have," she said.
- "My understanding is that in Ottawa there are high numbers of the developmentally disabled using homelessness services."

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Bridget Vickers, a member of the 2012 Pedal to Plate Tour, learns about bicycle maintenance on a nine-day cycling tour of the Ottawa region to learn about local food systems. YOUTUBE.COM

Ottawa charity tries to fill gap left by Katimavik

Into the void. After demise of decades-old iconic volunteer program, Otesha Project aims to offer youth opportunity to bike, lead across Canada

JOE LOFARO
joe.lofaro@metronews.ca

A local charity says it's expanding its recruitment to give some of the youth disadvantaged by federal budget cuts to the volunteer program Katimavik "professional-development opportunities" on its bicycle tours across Canada.

The federal government announced in March the 35-year-old Katimavik program would be axed in the 2012 budget. The program once placed hundreds of youth in volunteer work positions in more than 50 communities in Canada.

Kira Burger, communications co-ordinator for Ottawa-based the Otesha Project, said her organization is trying to fill the gap left by the cancellation. Founded in 2002, the youth-run charitable organization trains sustainability advocates through "experiential learning programs."

"We were really disappointed by the decision for their funding to be cut and we recognize that there's a huge need out there for youth to have professional-development opportunities that can give them an edge in a competitive job market," said Burger.

Beginning in summer 2013, youth between 18 and 30 will bike for a period of two months in Ontario, Alberta, Saskatchewan, or British Columbia and teach lessons on sustainability in schools along the way.

Participants, like those in the Katimavik program, will learn leadership, team-building, and community engagement skills in a group setting, said Burger. The major difference with Otesha is the team is mobile.

"While we can't bring back Katimavik this year, we do hope that youth that would have otherwise participated in the Katimavik volunteer program would consider hopping on their bikes and pedalling and doing some community engagement around Canada as an alternative," said Burger.

Clinics and doctors. Ottawa company offering fully automated reminders

An Ottawa-based company is helping clinics and physicians operate more efficiently by forgetting about their reminders.

Cliniconex fully automates the reminder notices clinics send their patients at the point of scheduling, and allows those patients to confirm or cancel appointments by responding to text messages or emails.

"As appointments move from paper books to computers, the whole idea is to automate that. It's just like going from typewriters to word processors," said Cliniconex founder and CEO Anthony Mar on Thursday. "It's a natural progression."

The trouble with the semi-automated reminder calls, according to Mar, is that they still rely on notoriously unreliable human beings. A staff member still must prompt the more dependable machine to make the calls. When that staff person is sick or on vacation, that prompting could fall by the wayside.

Far from being simply convenient, Mar said the system actually improves efficiency at clinics by freeing up time from cancelled appointments and moving people along the waiting lists faster.

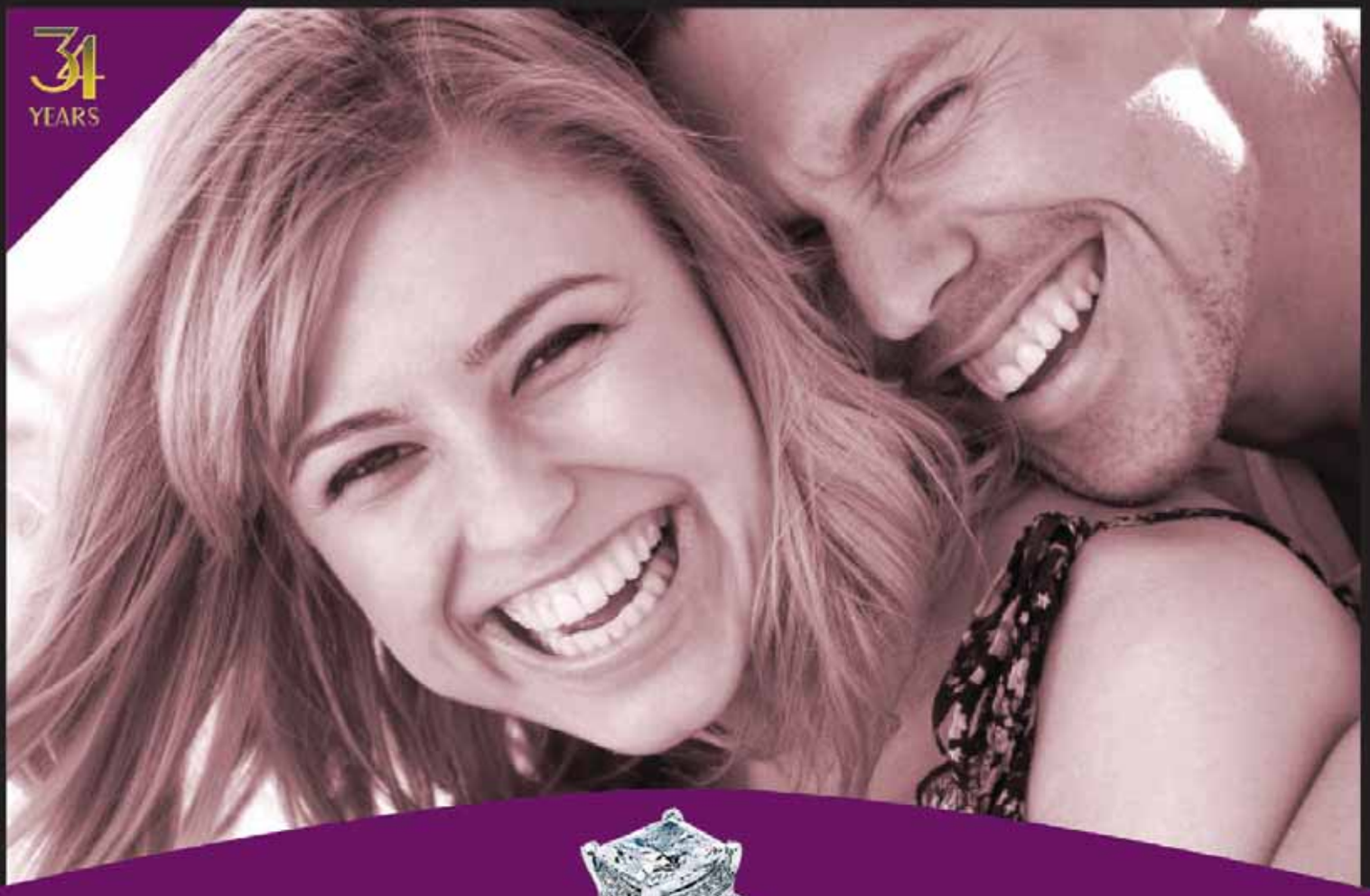
"The impact is quite significant," Mar said.

"The whole medical area is so inefficient now. I think they know that, I think they know generally themselves, clinics know themselves, that there's always room for improvement."

The next step, Mar said, is bringing the product to dentist offices. But he'd like to see larger clients, such as public hospitals, embrace the technology as a way to cut down on their wait times.

ALEX BOUTILIER/METRO

34 YEARS



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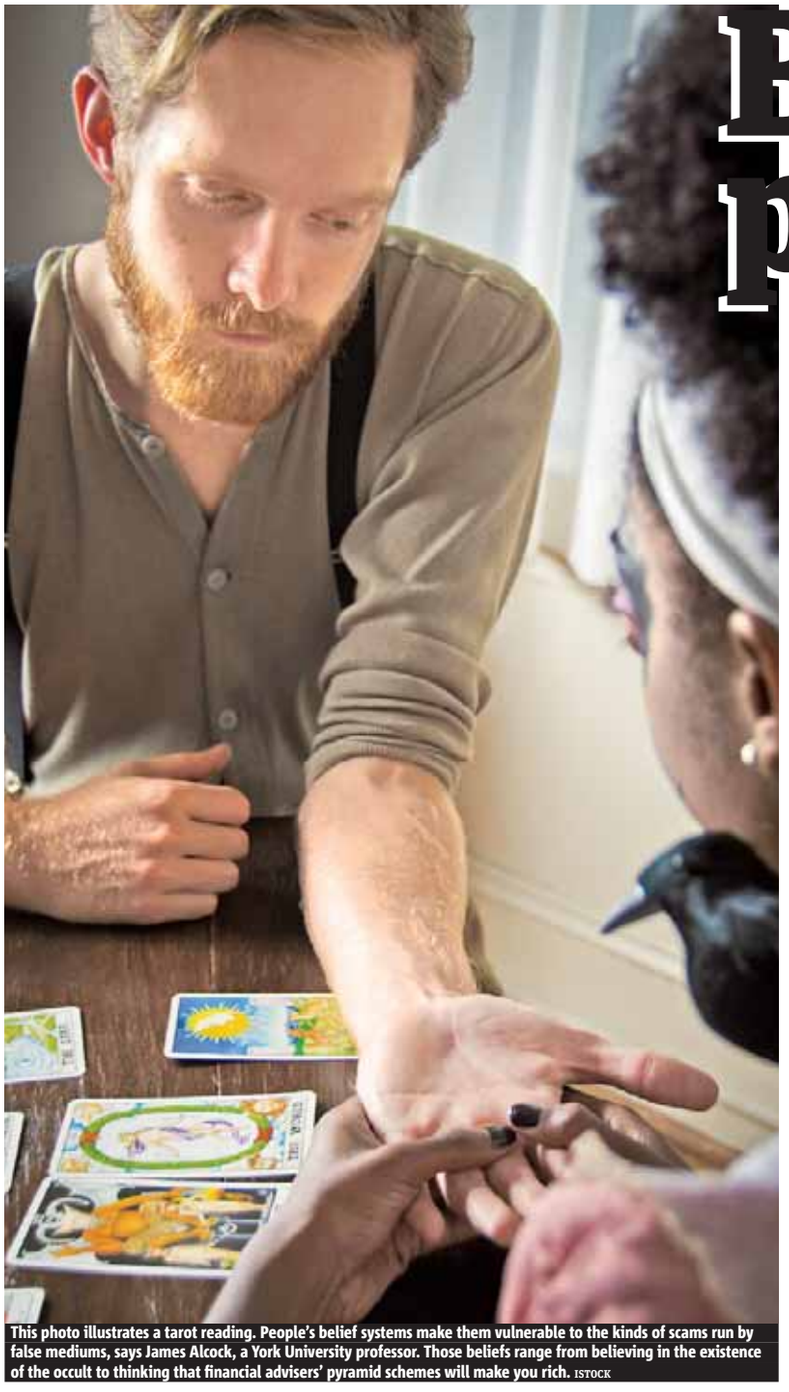

This photo illustrates a tarot reading. People's belief systems make them vulnerable to the kinds of scams run by false mediums, says James Alcock, a York University professor. Those beliefs range from believing in the existence of the occult to thinking that financial advisers' pyramid schemes will make you rich. ISTOCK

Psychic claims. Visit to 'Angel of Love' leaves Toronto man broke and heavy-hearted

"Rick" first went to see Angel because he wanted to find his ex-girlfriend.

He was responding to an ad by a psychic who calls himself the "Angel of Love."

He returned to Angel, repeatedly, because he wanted his band's music to be heard around the world.

Today, the ex-girlfriend hasn't returned, the band is still unknown and Rick is $11,000 poorer. He doesn't want his real name used because he's deeply embarrassed. He's an intelligent man who holds a good job with the provincial government.

Police say his case is not unique. Last week, Toronto police laid fraud charges against a man claiming to be a witch doctor. On Wednesday, police again cautioned the public about three women claiming to be psychics who preyed on two Chinese victims.

There is a fine line between psychics who break the law and those who don't.

According to Toronto police spokesman Const. Tony Vella, offering a psychic reading for money is legal. It becomes fraud if the psychic knowingly frightens the client into giving him money. There is a law against pretending to practice witchcraft, but it's legal to believe you are offering a real psychic reading.

Rick says Angel told him an evil spirit was causing his problems. For a fee, he claimed to be able to remove the spirit.

Rick met Angel and his female assistant at their office.

"To start off, it's going to be $900. So I went and I took $900 from … my Visa."

He was told to drink a cup of liquid.

"I started barfing right in a cup. I said it's too much. He said it's just the start."

Rick returned to Angel many times since his first visit last spring. He spent another $3,000, before being told to phone their leader, "Juan," in Miami. Juan asked Rick for another $11,000 and convinced him the "evil spirit in the netherworld" would obey their commands, for a price.

"I took out $8,000 more. It was the most I could get," he said. "He said 'okay, enough, we'll work on it for you.'"

Angel didn't show him the spirit like promised, Rick says.

Toronto's Angel of Love has not been convicted of any crime related to his soothsaying business. JESSICA SMITH/METRO

Guilt and shame

"My money's gone though … They're laughing. Probably got a new car."

Rick, who says he was scammed but is too embarrassed to go the police.

Why we fall for scams

You've been very hurt by someone in your past

We're all susceptible to scams when they play on the belief system we've adopted since childhood, according to a psychology professor at York University in Toronto.

"Everybody's vulnerable," said James Alcock, who teaches a class on belief systems. "You could take a person who doesn't believe in curses, won't believe in psychics, is very careful about responding to spam emails and yet they could be suckered by some financial adviser."

Belief in psychics, witches, curses and spells is deeply rooted in many cultures and people usually pick up those beliefs as children.

While some psychics truly believe in what they're doing, others scam, picking up on their mark's vulnerabilities, said Alcock. "There's a need the person has, or the psychic creates the need, and then they fill the need," he said.

Many psychics use tricks of the trade to read people and gain their confidence, said Alcock. He gives a "cold reading" to a student in his class every year, even though he's not psychic.

"When you're talking to a psychic, you're giving feedback, even if you're trying not to," he said.

The combination of vague statements and careful observation works. Every so often, a student will come up to him privately after class to ask if he really is psychic, because he appeared to know all about some deeply personal thing that happened to them.

The ex files: Metro reporter looks for her guy

JESSICA SMITH
Metro in Toronto

I went to the Angel of Love's office not hoping to find my lost ex-boyfriend, as I told him, but to verify claims the psychic was telling people they were cursed and the way to remove it was to give him money.

I, too, was told that I had been cursed and that it would cost me a lot of money to have my ex-boyfriend back.

We met in the back room of a dingy apartment over a convenience store on Eglinton Avenue West in Toronto. There was no neon sign flashing "psychic," no crystal ball.

Only a pack of tarot cards on the messy desk gave away anything out of the ordinary.

I said I couldn't get in touch with my ex and I was worried about his safety.

Angel spoke in a deep, gravelly foreign language and his assistant translated. After a bit of negotiation, he gave me a "reading" for $40.

"Your luck is not good," said the assistant as Angel read my tarot cards. "On your luck, depends everything. Love and work. Everything. Money, money comes and money goes."

They told me a lot of people are envious of me. I tried to look pleased, to pass off as vain.

"There is a woman, she is the one that has a lot of envy over you," said the assistant. "She is envious of your relationship."

They asked if I've been to a psychic before. I said no, truthfully.

"He can see witchcraft, spells and those things. There is a person who has probably put them to work on you," said the assistant as Angel read my palm.

The witch's curse is blocking my luck, so everything in my life suffers, he said.

Forever's gonna cost you

$1,200

For less money, my ex will return but won't be guaranteed to stay as long—$1,200 for four years, $900 for two.

The next day I got bad news. My ex-boyfriend is seeing someone.

"You found him?" I asked, but the assistant explained that that's not what they do. They can just "see" that he is seeing someone else now.

I tried to look aggrieved.

"We can always bring him back," said the assistant, "to you, for a price."

The assistant explained that the process would require three different sessions and that there were different levels of service I could get. The top tier costs $1,500, in three payments of $500.

"They'll bring him back and he'll stay with you forever, he'll love you forever. That's why it's the highest price," he said.

For less money, my ex will return but won't be guaranteed to stay as long — $1,200 for four years, $900 for two.

If I opt for any, they will throw in a cure for the spell that the witch put on me and give me a charm that will keep me safe in the future.

I told them I'd think it over.

I wasn't convinced by anything I heard. They didn't seem to know I was lying or that I had my phone on with the voice-record app running.

Reached by phone Thursday, Angel's assistant said they have never had any complaints about what they do and he doesn't feel they are taking advantage of people.

LISTEN TO A RECORDING OF JESSICA'S SESSION AT METRONEWS.CA

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Assad's back against the wall as Syrian rebels close in on Damascus

Syrian crisis. President may have no choice but to fight to the death, diplomat says

The battle for Damascus looms closer. As Syrian rebels encircle President Bashar al Assad's stronghold, he will be aware of the fate met by fellow leaders who misruled their people and faced their wrath.

Libya's Moammar Gadhafi dragged out of a drainpipe, sodomized and shot. Hosni Mubarak of Egypt jailed for life.

The opposition under the loose umbrella of the Free Syrian Army is battling Assad's forces in the south and eastern suburbs and on the road to the airport as his warplanes hit back. As the noose tightens around Damascus, the seat of family rule since Assad's late father, Hafez, seized power 42 years ago, the president faces tough choices about what to do next. Fight or flee?

A critical factor is the fate of his Alawite community, a minority who practise an offshoot of Shiite Islam and have been instrumental in suppressing the uprising.

They make up 12 per cent of the population but are the backbone of the regime — 80 per cent of the army's officer class are Alawites.

Assad will fight to the death because the rebels, many of whom are Sunni, would show no mercy, said Nikolaos van Dam, a veteran diplomat with 35 years of experience in Syria.

"This is a battle for death or life," he said. "The regime knows if they are toppled they will simply be killed. It could be a long battle in Damascus."

The government controls only half of Aleppo and several military bases have been overrun by opposition fighters, according to Syria-based activists.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Global perspective

Worries over chemical weapons

Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird is urging China and Russia to lean on the regime of Syrian President Bashar al Assad as reports emerge he could unleash chemical weapons on his people. The UN Security Council has been powerless to censure Syria because of the objections of veto-wielding Russia and China.

Meanwhile, NATO plans to place Patriot missiles and troops on the Turkey-Syria border. THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. mulls over plan to release mutant mosquitoes

Mosquito control officials in the Florida Keys are waiting for the federal government to sign off on an experiment that would release hundreds of thousands of genetically modified mosquitoes to reduce the risk of dengue fever in the tourist town of Key West.

If approved by the Food and Drug Administration, it would be the first such experiment in the U.S. Some Key West residents worry, though, that not enough research has been done to determine the risks that releasing genetically modified mosquitoes might pose to the Keys' fragile ecosystem.

A squashed Aedes aegypti mosquito in Key Largo, Fla.
WILFREDO LEE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Officials are targeting the Aedes aegypti mosquitoes because they can spread dengue fever, a disease health officials thought had been eradicated in the U.S. until 93 cases originated in the Keys in 2009 and 2010.

The trial planned by mosquito-control officials and the British company Oxitec would release non-biting male mosquitoes that have been genetically modified to pass along a birth defect that kills their progeny before reaching maturity. The idea is that they will mate with wild females and their children will die before reproducing. After a few generations, Key West's Aedes aegypti population would die off, reducing the dengue fever risk without using pesticides and at a relatively low cost, the proponents say. There is no vaccine for dengue fever.

The Florida Keys Mosquito Control District website says the modified genes will disappear from the environment after the mosquitoes carrying it die, resulting in no permanent change to the wild mosquito population. It also says the mosquito species isn't native to the Keys, nor is it an integral food source for other animals. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In sickness and in health

Britain's Prince William stands next to his wife, Kate, Duchess of Cambridge, as she leaves a hospital in London on Thursday after recovering from morning sickness. ANDREW MATTHEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Denied asylum

John McAfee hospitalized

Software company founder John McAfee was hospitalized for chest pain Thursday after being denied asylum in Guatemala, and his lawyers said they were making a last-ditch effort to keep him from being flown back to Belize for questioning about the killing of a fellow American expatriate.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Firearm advisory

Harper rejects lax gun-law plans

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is unhappy with recommendations from a firearms advisory committee that would see some prohibited weapons made more easily available.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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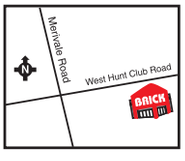

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BMO survey

More Canadians have RRSPs than this time last year

An increasing number of Canadians surveyed in a BMO study have invested in a registered retirement savings plan this year. The BMO Financial Group poll found 67 per cent of respondents have an RRSP, compared to 61 per cent at this time last year. Nearly three-quarters of respondents plan to contribute the same amount or more to their RRSP than they did last year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 100.90¢ (+0.06¢)

TSX 12,151.13 (-6.16)

OIL $86.26 US (-$1.62)

GOLD $1,701.80 US (+$8)

Natural gas: $3.63 (-7¢)
Dow Jones: 13,074.04 (+39.55)

Q4 earnings reports

Strong results, future concerns for banks

Shares in TD Bank, CIBC and National Bank of Canada all fell Thursday as worries about the outlook for consumer loans amid record household debt overshadowed earnings reports that met or exceeded expectations.

Despite solid fourth-quarter financial results, National Bank fell 1.4 per cent to $76.60, CIBC gave back 0.47 per cent to $80.14 and TD was off 1.8 per cent, closing at $81.12.

The performance "reflects what investors see as a challenging environment for the banks," said CIBC World Markets analyst Rob Sedran, who forecast a 2013 growth pullback in the sector to between five per cent and six per cent.

He said the banks are bracing for a decline in consumer loans growth, especially in the cooling housing market, as governments tighten mortgage rules and leveraged consumers become more cautious about borrowing.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canada Post flunks information-request report card — again

Ottawa. Information commissioner finds postal service is still far from achieving transparency

Canada Post vehicles sit outside a sorting depot in the Ville St-Laurent borough of Montreal in this file photo. Information Commissioner Suzanne Legault has found the postal service has made only a bit of improvement over the past two years in how it processes information requests. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

The information watchdog says Canada Post has delivered only marginal improvement on its handling of access-to-information requests.

The post office received an F on its latest report card from Information Commissioner Suzanne Legault after being stamped with red-alert status for its poor performance two years ago.

As reported Wednesday, the CBC got an A for its processing of requests in 2011-12, up from an F for its performance two years ago.

The access law allows people who pay $5 to seek federal files ranging from expense reports and email messages to briefing notes and internal audits.

As an ombudsman for users of the law, Legault has periodically looked at whether key institutions meet their legal obligations of transparency.

In her report card on Canada Post, Legault said although the Crown corporation has taken some steps toward improving its performance, it is still far from achieving optimal compliance with the law.

In a statement Thursday, Canada Post said it was disappointed with the F rating, as it had taken steps to improve performance. It committed to doing even better.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bank of Canada. Low interest rates putting stress on world economy, central bank says

The Bank of Canada is warning that its own low-interest policies and those of central banks around the world are adding another layer of risk to the already stressed global financial system and economy.

The central bank says near-record-level interest rates in place since the 2008-09 recession are taking their toll on insurance companies, pension funds and even increasing the appetite of investors to take risks in search of higher returns.

In Canada, they have been a prime mover to the other major domestic risk — an overheated housing market and high levels of consumer debt as Canadians take advantage of cheap money to buy real estate.

Bank governor Mark Carney has warned about the dangers of low interest rates sporadically in the past, but this time the bank's governing council has thought the concern grave enough to add it to the list of risks facing Canada and the world.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Apple. Line of Macs will be produced in U.S., CEO says

Apple CEO Tim Cook says the company will move production of one of its existing lines of Mac computers to the United States next year.

Industry watchers said the announcement is both a cunning public-relations move and a harbinger of more manufacturing jobs moving back to the U.S. as wages rise in China.

Cook made the comments in part of an interview aired Thursday morning on Today and posted on the network's website. In a separate interview with Bloomberg Businessweek, he said that the company will spend $100 million US in 2013 to move production of the line to the U.S. from China.

"This doesn't mean that Apple will do it ourselves, but we'll be working with people and we'll be investing our money," Cook told Bloomberg.

The back of an iPhone4, featuring the words: "Assembled in China," is shown in this file photo. Like most consumer electronic firms, Apple forges agreements with contract manufacturers to assemble products overseas. But Thursday, it said it would produce a line of Mac computers in the U.S. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

That suggests the company could be helping its Taiwanese manufacturing partner Foxconn Technology Group to set up a factory in the U.S.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Private space travel

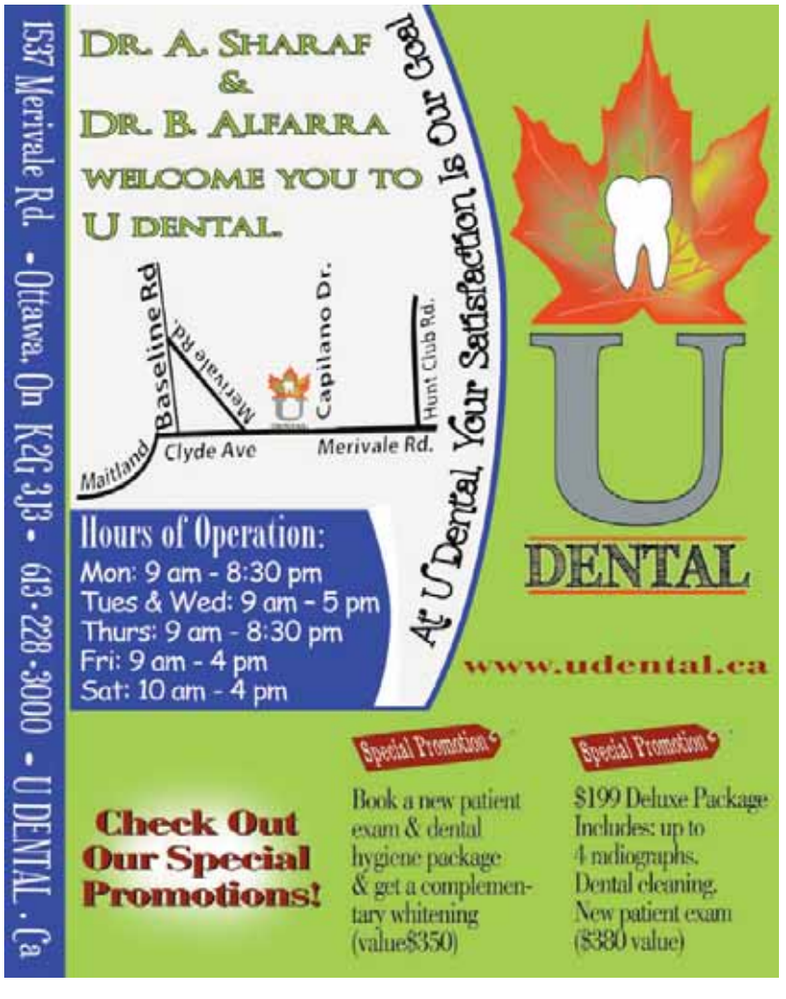
Got $1.5B for a trip to the moon?

A team of former NASA executives is launching a private venture to send people to the moon for a price that is definitely out of this world.

For $1.5 billion US, the newly formed business called Golden Spike Co. is offering countries and individuals a two-person trip to the moon, either for research or national prestige. Some space experts, though, are skeptical of the firm's financial ability to get to the moon.

Dozens of private space companies have started up recently, but few, if any will make it, said Harvard astronomer Jonathan McDowell. "This is unlikely to be the one that will pan out," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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FRACAS ENSUES AFTER F-BOMB DROPPED IN THE HOUSE

THE LIST
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

TGIF, when you can read the Metro List and relive the parade of wonders that marks yet another zany week in this crazy world we live in.

1 **We are amused.** The next generation of British royals is gestating, and poor Kate ends up in the hospital, suffering from a right royal bout of morning sickness. After enduring a round-the-clock siege from publicity hounds and pranksters, she emerges looking remarkably well, considering, proving once again that there will always be an England. There might even be twins.

2 **Nothing amusing here.** The Harper government House leader nearly comes to blows with his NDP counterpart after crossing the floor in a pugnacious manner to deliver a speech composed primarily of the F word. Who elected these clowns? Oh, right.

3 **Attack of the killer PM.** Why can't we elect somebody cool like Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard, who takes time out of her busy schedule to reassure her people that even though the world will end on Dec. 21 (as allegedly predicted by the Mayan calendar), she will continue to stand by them to the bitter end, which will be caused by: "flesh eating zombies, demonic hell beasts or from the total triumph of K-Pop." I think she's kidding, but the Tasmanian devil certainly fits the description of a demonic hell beast.

4 **Speaking of the end of the world.** The poor little misunderstood pop star Justin Bieber is snubbed by the Grammy nominators again in favour of dumb old guys like Jack White, the Black Keys, and Maroon 5. As if!

5 **Riot like an Egyptian.** The Muslim Brotherhood, now in power as the Arab Spring turns to winter, passes a constitution that prohibits discrimination against anyone, but removes the phrase "on the basis of sex, origin, religion and creed." Uh-oh. The Brotherhood's power grab has blown the lid off the uneasy calm on the streets of Cairo, where spring seems a long, long time ago.

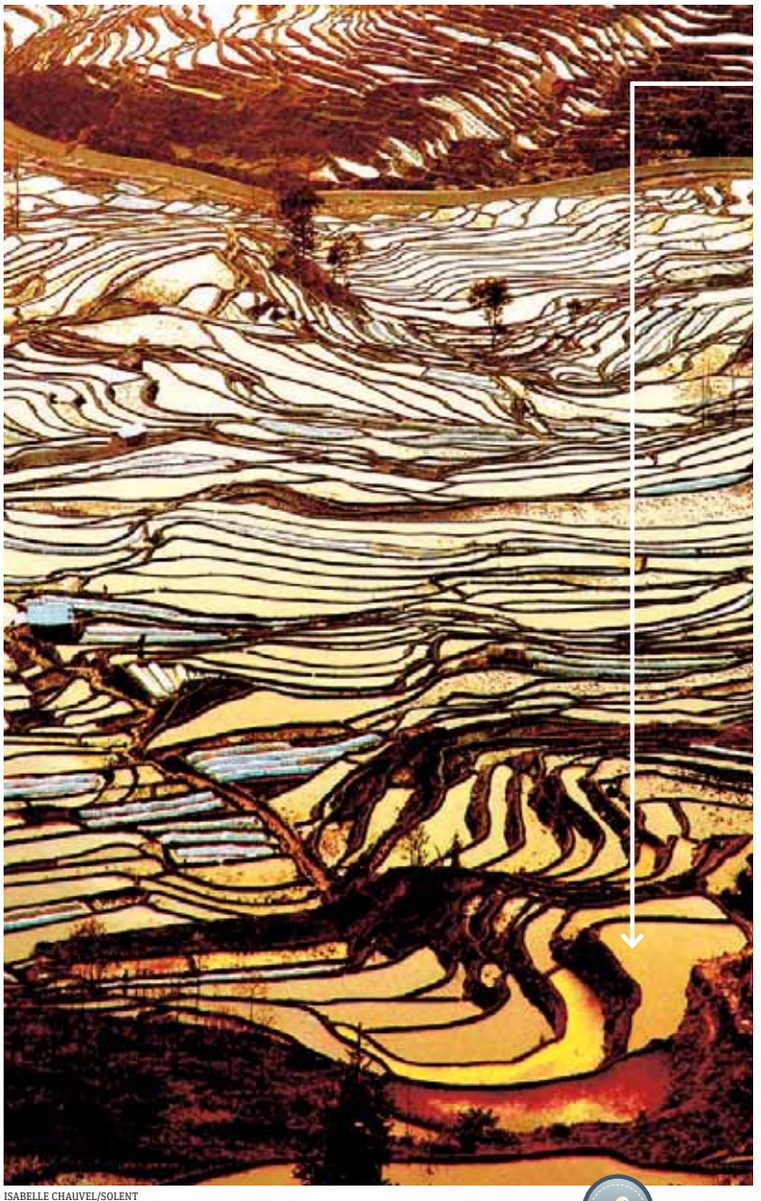
6 **Lest we forget.** This week marks the 23rd anniversary of the cold-blooded murder of 14 women in Montreal by a crazed misogynist. It remains as horrifying as it did then. And, yes, every man owns a piece of it.

7 **What would YOU have done?** A bus driver in Vienna finds a sack stuffed with money, (390,000 euros to be precise, worth more than half a million Canadian dollars) and turns it in! It is traced to an elderly lady who left it behind on the bus. For being the world's most painfully honest man, the driver receives a small cash award and, as it's the end of his shift, gets to take the rest of the day off.

Follow The Metro List on Twitter @TheMetroList

Peter Van Loan, the government's House leader, set off a dust-up when he stormed across the floor of the House of Commons to confront his NDP counterpart, Nathan Cullen, on Wednesday. SCREENGRAB/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The beauty of making rice



ISABELLE CHAUVEL/SOLENT

Landscape photography

Shining spectacle found in rice fields

At first glance, it looks like a stained-glass window, but a wide gaze reveals something more grand and spectacular.

Reflective pools of water at one of the world's largest rice terraces offer stunning views, especially from 1,800 metres up in the mountains. Isabelle Chauvel took the photos in Yuanyang in China's Yunnan Province. METRO

Natural beauty

Man, nature create visual wonder

Chauvel spent from sunrise to sunset taking photos of the handcrafted rice terraces.

"At each time of the day, the colours reflected in the water were different — from bright orange, off-white, earthy brown and verdant green," she told Metro. "It was a true spectacle of what nature has to offer, and the amazing creation mankind has made." METRO

Yuanyang terraces

- Formed by the Hani people more than 1,000 years ago, the fields are still used today for irrigation and farming.
- Fields are irrigated with water from the forest. Water evaporates from fields into clouds — their rain is collected and trapped by mountain forests. In turn, spring water returns to fields.

Metropolitan Panel

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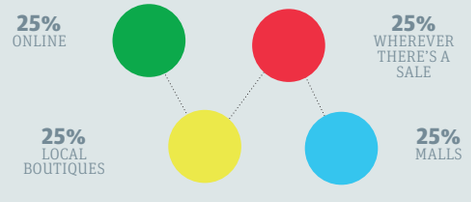

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@GregBanning: Loving 2 week garbage pickup. #Ottawa #Sarcasm http://t.co/1ITKbQWb

@kimvoRealtor: When things aren't adding up in your life, start subtracting!

@OttawaPro: Where do you think the light rail should go in #Ottawa?

@PintInHand: Have you tried the newest #Ottawa #craftbrewer @BTPBrewing yet? "The Darkness" Oatmeal Stout review http://t.co/tsb79IRG @OntCraftBrewers

@AbbyGartland: Actually need a weekend so badly right now.

@theodotblog: BREAKING: LRT Tunnel Plan Approved By City, C.H.U.D.s #ottnews

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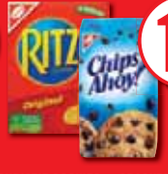

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Even Gerard Butler's trademark rakish smile can't save Playing For Keeps from crashing. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Playing for weeps

Laughless. The Reel Guys agree — Gerard Butler's latest attempt at a rom com has upset the Movie Godz

Richard: Mark, I tried hard to pin point exactly the thing that bugged me about Playing for Keeps. I thought long and hard and have come to realize that we don't have enough space here for me to fully explain why this doesn't work, but let's start with the idea that the women are simply treated as sexed-up plot points and move on from there. What did you think?

Mark: Bad enough that the women are treated as sexed-up plot points; unforgivable that they're all just dropped halfway through the movie. For a while, I thought I was watching a classic sexist Tony Curtis movie. Troglodyte, perhaps, but at least it was a bit of fun. Then the film lost its guts and became the story of a man who — sob — just wants to be reunited — sob — with his family. Yeccch!

RC: Yeah. The first half hour is, maybe not exactly promising, but on par for this kind of movie. Then it takes a turn. He has unresolved feelings for his ex-wife and the movie has unresolved plot points falling from the sky like the tears of the Movie Godz who weep when movies this bad get released. Butler's trademarked eye glint and rakish smile are not enough to save this, and someone please tell Uma Thurman to saddle up and work with Quentin Tarantino again.

MB: Speaking of Uma, how much Botox and Restylane is there in the greater Los Angeles area? Because she's left very little for the rest of us. And Zeta-Jones' vamping made me feel sorry for Butler — he probably had to endure take after take of her bad Anne Bancroft impression. Only Judy Greer gets to walk away with her dignity intact — but she always does, doesn't she? And the running gag with the East Indian landlord was embarrassing if not borderline racist. C'mon, Richard, give me something to like about this one!

RC: How about this? Katherine Heigl's not in it and it's not longer. At 106 minutes, it tests the limits of endurance. At 107 minutes or more we might have been able to press charges for cruelty. Judy Greer, however, is great and I'm going to have to ask you to be careful what you say about my Uma in future.

MB: I apologize, Richard. I love her too. It's just that I love her even more when her face can move about.

Synopsis

Gerard Butler plays George Dwyer, former soccer superstar, now sidelined by injuries. Broke and reduced to selling his own memorabilia to make ends meet, he moves to Virginia to be closer to his ex-wife (Jessica Biel) and their son Lewis (Noah Lomax). When the charming Scot begins coaches his son's soccer team all the soccer moms (Judy Greer, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Uma Thurman) throw themselves at him, but he has eyes for only one woman — his ex-wife.

- Richard: ●○○○○
- Mark: ●○○○○

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The holidays give us lots of time for movies

Preview. Metro looks at some of the upcoming flicks hitting theatres near you

UPCOMING COMEDIES

All that holiday family time will leave most of us in need of a few good laughs.

The Guilt Trip
Dec. 19 — This road trip movie starring Seth Rogen and Barbra Streisand aims to plumb the treasure trove of jokes to be made about a mother and son going on a road trip across the country.

This is 40
Dec. 21 — As the "sort of sequel" to 2007's Knocked Up, this Judd Apatow film follows committed couple Debbie and Pete (Leslie Mann and Paul Rudd) as they struggle with aging and each other.

Quartet
Jan. 11 (limited) — Dustin Hoffman directs this comedy about a British retirement home for opera singers and the longtime resident who reunites with a lost love. Pretty much, it's Best Exotic Marigold Quartet.

A Haunted House
Jan. 11 — Marlon Wayans, Cedric the Entertainer and Nick Swardson finally give Paranormal Activity and all those exorcist movies the send-up they deserve.

Movie 43
Jan. 25 — Like those monster ensemble rom coms such as Valentine's Day and New Year's Eve, this comedy packs in a load of stars but promises to be a least a little bit more enjoyable than the aforementioned cheesefests.

SCI-FI, HORROR, ACTION

Despite being the season for high-concept movies, the horror and action genres have plenty to offer this winter.

Texas Chainsaw 3D
Jan. 4 — It's yet another remake of the classic horror flick, but this time the story follows a young woman who journeys to Texas to gather her inheritance, which happens to be in the home of Leatherface.

Mama
Jan. 18 — Annabel and Lucas, a young couple, must raise his two young nieces after being left to fend for themselves by their late parents. They soon discover the girls' dark past, which includes a relentless spirit called Mama.

The Last Exorcism 2: The Beginning of the End
March 1 — If you can get past the film's misleading predecessor, the sequel picks up somewhere down the track as Nell Sweetzer attempts to move on from the past, but is confronted by the sinister force that previously possessed her.

Gangster Squad
Jan. 11 — If Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone aren't enough to get you interested, this film looks set to be one of the best winter releases. The action flick follows the LAPD's struggle with the East Coast Mafia during the '40s and '50s.

Parker
Jan. 25 — Jason Statham steps back into his signature role as an action hero, but this time he plays a thief who forms an alliance with an unlikely friend (Jennifer Lopez) to get revenge on his gang.

Hansel and Gretel Witch Hunters
Jan. 25 — The name pretty much sums it up. The flick is a modern take on the classic fairy tale in which we see Hansel and Gretel on a pursuit for vengeance against the witches who tortured them as children.

Jack Reacher
Dec. 21 — In this adaptation of the Lee Child crime series, Tom Cruise plays an ex-military homicide investigator who steps in to solve a case in which a trained sniper is accused of killing five random innocents.

FILMS LIKELY TO SCORE A GOLDEN STATUETTE

1. Killing Them Softly
Friday — Brad Pitt stars in this dark underworld thriller about a pair of small-time crooks that rob a mobster card game. Soon an enforcer (Pitt) is sent in to make sure that debts are properly paid.

2. Hyde Park on Hudson
Friday (limited) — Bill Murray, Laura Linney and Olivia Williams star in this depiction of the affair between FDR and his distant cousin, Margaret Stuckley, during the landmark visit of the first reigning British royals on American soil.

3. Amour
Dec. 19 (limited) — The winner of the 2012 Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival has yet to leave anything but a stirring impression on those who have seen it. Austrian filmmaker Michael Haneke's depiction of an elderly couple facing their mortality guarantees a beautifully heart-rending experience.

4. Zero Dark Thirty
Dec. 19 (limited) — After her Oscar win for 2008's The Hurt Locker, Kathryn Bigelow presents another military drama in the Middle East, this time following the hunt and execution of Osama Bin Laden.

5. The Impossible
Dec. 21 (limited) — Naomi Watts and Ewan McGregor star in the true story of one family's struggle to survive the tsunami that struck the coast of Thailand in 2004.

This is 40, starring Paul Rudd and Leslie Mann. HANDOUT

6. Not Fade Away
Dec. 21 (limited) — The mastermind behind The Sopranos, David Chase, writes and directs this nostalgic drama about a fledgling rock band trying to make it big in 1960s New Jersey. And yes, James Gandolfini (formerly known as Tony Soprano) does make an appearance.

7. On the Road
Jan. 18 (limited) — This long-awaited adaptation of Jack Kerouac's beloved beatnik novel stars Garrett Hedlund, Kirsten Dunst and of course a topless-at-one-point Kristen Stewart as a bunch of roustabout rebels in the late '50s, trying to discover what it means to be free.

8. Django Unchained
Dec. 25 — Vigilante justice is the cornerstone of any Quentin Tarantino film, and his 2012 offering promises to deliver the obligatory amount of gratuitous bloodshed. Jamie Foxx plays a freed slave who is assisted in revenge by his mentor, played by Christoph Waltz.

9. Les Miserables
Dec. 25 — Some Oscar wins are practically in the hands of director Tom Hooper already for his adaptation of the Broadway musical, originally penned as a novel by Victor Hugo. By recording the live singing performances of stars Russell Crowe, Hugh Jackman, Anne Hathaway and others, the film stands to break new ground for musical adaptations that eschew the cheese factor.

10. Promised Land
Jan. 4 — Matt Damon, Frances McDormand, John Krasinski and Rosemarie DeWitt star in this film about a natural gas company salesman who experiences a conflict of interest when arriving in a small town that is the next target for prospecting.

11. The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey
Dec. 14 — The first installment of Peter Jackson's latest Tolkien trilogy is sure to pick up at least a few technical awards for its daring method of shooting film at twice the speed of regular film (48 frames per second, as opposed to the traditional 24).
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Richard Armitage's unexpected journey to becoming a dwarf

The Hobbit. Actor credits Tolkien with pushing his imagination and leading him to acting

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

In The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey, British actor Richard Armitage plays Thorin Oakenshield, exiled dwarf king. He's a newcomer to the Peter Jackson vision of Middle Earth — which began with the three Lord of the Rings films, and continues with a new Hobbit trilogy — but no stranger to the world of author J.R.R. Tolkien.

"I am one of those people who have loved the book," he says. "I remember being read The Hobbit by a teacher in primary school who did amazing voices, God bless her. I picked up the book myself and started reading it, which was kind of rare because normally I would have to be forced to read."

He missed the chance to audition for the first set of films, but when The Hobbit came around he jumped at the chance.

"I had no idea how I would fit into that story because the idea of playing a dwarf just wasn't on my radar. I'm six foot three and a half, so why on earth would I play a dwarf?"

It wasn't the first time he was excited to bring the fantasy of Middle Earth to life.

"I was in a stage production of The Hobbit when I was 13," he says, "which I leapt at. It's weird how you have that reaction when someone says they're doing a stage production, at 13 to go, 'I've read that book. I love it. Let me be in it.' I had the same feeling when they were making this movie."

He says thoughts of that long ago play are "filled with strange memories."

"I remember wearing a knitted smock, which had been sprayed silver to look like chain mail but it was made of wool. I was an elf. I was pretty tall for 13 years old. Gollum was made of paper and they didn't have enough money for a dragon, so it was a red light, a puff of smoke and a man off stage with a microphone. I remember running around in circles eating grapes because we were doing a scene in the forest where the Elves are tempting the dwarves to come to their feast."

He draws a straight line between his early love of Tolkien and his current profession.

"My imagination was totally stimulated by Tolkien's world and I think once you've had your imagination stimulated in that way, every book you ever read you dramatize in your head. You hear character's voices and visualize that world."

Richard Armitage plays Thorin Oakenshield, exiled dwarf king, in The Hobbit. HANDOUT

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Ottawa

Bytowne Cinema
325 Rideau St., 613-789-3456

Anna Karenina (14A) Fri 8:59 Sat 1:59-6:50 Sun 4:05 Mon 4:15 Tue-Wed 6:30 Thu 4:15
Chasing Ice (PG) Fri 7:05 Sat 9:30 Sun 6:50 Mon 8:59 Tue 9:10 Wed 4:35
Love Crimes of Kabul (STC) Mon 7:01
Psycho (PG) Tue 4:01 Wed 9:15
Rebelle (14A) Fri 5:01 Sat 4:45 Sun 8:45
The Story of Film: An Odyssey, Part 6 (STC) Sun 1:30

Canadian Film Institute
2 Daly Ave., Suite 120, 613-232-6727

No Films Showing Today (STC) Fri Sun-Thu
Sigur Ros: The Valtari Mystery Film Experiment (STC) Sat 8

Canadian Museum of nature
240 McLeod St., 613-566-4700

No Films Showing Today (STC) Mon-Thu
Tornado Alley 3D (STC) Fri 10:30-11:40-1:20 Sat-Sun 10:50-12-1:45-2:20 Fri 11:05-12:40 Sat-Sun 11:25-2:55
Turtle Vision 3D (STC) Sat-Sun 12:35-3:30 Sat-Sun 1:10

Coliseum Ottawa
3090 Carling Ave., 613-596-9475

Flight (18A) Fri 1-4:20-7:35-10:40 Sat 7:35-10:40 Sun 1-4:20-7:35-10:40 Mon-Wed 4-7:15-10:20 Thu 1:10-4-7:15-10:20
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) No Passes Thu 10:20
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) No Passes Thu 10
Khiladi 786 (STC) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:30-6:40-9:50 Mon-Thu 3:25-6:30-9:40
Killing Them Softly (18A) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:45 Mon-Wed 5:25-7:55-10:25 Thu 1:15-5:25-7:55-10:25
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:40-7:40-10:40 Mon-Wed 4:20-7:20-10:20 Thu 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20
The Metropolitan Opera: Un Ballo in Maschera Live (STC) Sat 12:55
Miracle on 34th Street (G) Sun 12:45 Wed 7
Playing for Keeps (PG) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:25 Mon-Wed 4:55-7:30-10:05 Thu 1:25-4:55-7:30-10:05
Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Red Dawn (PG) Fri 12:55-3:25-5:55-8:25-10:50 Sat 8:25-10:50 Sun 3:25-5:55-8:25-10:50 Mon-Tue 5:35-8:05-10:30 Wed 4:30-10:30 Thu 3:40-10:30
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:40
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri-Sun 5:10-7:45-10:05 Mon-Wed 4:50-7:25-9:45 Thu 3:20-5:40-8
Skyfall (PG) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:40-7-10:30 Mon-Wed 3:20-6:40-10:10 Thu 3:50-7:10-10:30 Fri-Sun 12:50-4:10-7:30-10:50 Mon-Tue 3:50-7:10-10:30 Wed 10:30 Thu 3:20-6:40 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Talaash (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:50-7:10-10:15 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:50-9:55
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:30-7:20-10:10 Mon-Wed 4:10-7-9:50 Thu 1:20-4:10-7-9:50
Wreck-It Ralph (PG) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:55 Thu 1:30
Wreck-It Ralph 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 5:30-8:05-10:35 Mon-Thu 5:10-7:45-10:15

Empire 7 Cinemas
111 Albert St., 3rd Floor, World Exchange Plaza, 613-233-0209

Argo (14A) Fri 3:30-6:10-9 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:10-9 Mon 3:30-6:10-9 Tue 12:30-3:30-6:10-9 Wed-Thu 3:30-6:10-9
Flight (18A) Fri 3:20-6:20-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:15-3:20-6:20-9:35 Mon 3:20-6:20-9:35 Tue 12:15-3:20-6:20-9:35 Wed-Thu 3:20-9:35
Killing Them Softly (18A) Fri 3:45-6:30-9:10 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:45-6:30-9:10 Mon 3:45-6:30-9:10 Tue 12:40-3:45-6:30-9:10 Wed-Thu 3:45-6:30-9:10
Life of Pi (PG) Fri-Thu 3:40
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri 6:45-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:20-6:45-9:40 Mon 6:45-9:40 Tue 12:20-6:45-9:40 Wed-Thu 6:45-9:40
Lincoln (PG) Fri 3-6:30-9:45 Sat-Sun 11:50-3-6:30-9:45 Mon 3-6:30-9:45 Tue 11:50-3-6:30-9:45 Wed-Thu 3-6:30-9:45
Midnight's Children (PG) Fri 3:15-6:15-9:25 Sat-Sun 12:10-3:15-6:15-9:25 Mon 3:15-6:15-9:25 Tue 12:10-3:15-6:15-9:25 Wed 3:15-6:15-9:25
Skyfall (PG) Fri 3:10-6:35-9:50 Sat-Sun 12-3:10-6:35-9:50 Mon 3:10-6:35-9:50 Tue 12-3:10-6:35-9:50 Wed-Thu 3:10-6:20-9:50

Mayfair Theatre
1074 Bank St., 613-730-3403, mayfair-movie.com

Burial Ground: The Nights of Terror (STC) Fri 11 Sat 10:30
Easy Money (STC) Mon-Tue 9
How the Grinch Stole Christmas (G) Sun 1
Searching for Sugar Man (PG) Fri 9 Sat 8:30 Sun 9 Wed-Thu 9
Step Up to the Plate (G) Fri 7 Sat 6:30 Mon-Tue 7
White Christmas (PG) Sun 6:30
You've Been Trumped (STC) Wed-Thu 7

Mayfair Theatre Orleans
250 Centrum Blvd., 613 837-3456, orleans.mayfairtheatre.ca

Argo (14A) Fri 4-6:30-9 Sat-Sun 1-6:30-9 Mon 6:30-9 Tue 4-6:30-9 Wed-Thu 6:30-9
Here Comes the Boom (PG) Sat-Sun 3:15
Hotel Transylvania (PG) Sat-Sun 1:15
The Man With the Iron Fists (18A) Fri-Thu 8:30
Midnight's Children (PG) Fri 6 Sat-Sun 12:45-6 Mon-Tue 6 Thu 6
The Rocky Horror Picture Show (STC) Fri 10:30
Samsara (PG) Fri 3:45-6:15 Sat-Sun 3:30-6:15 Mon 6:15 Tue 3:45-6:15 Wed-Thu 6:15
Seven Psychopaths (18A) Fri 3:30-8:45 Sat-Sun 3:45-8:45 Mon 8:45 Tue 3:30-8:45 Wed-Thu 8:45

Rainbow Cinemas St. Laurent Centre, 1200 St. Laurent Blvd., 613-688-0850

Brave (PG) Fri-Thu 10:40-3-5:05
Cloud Atlas (14A) Fri-Sat 9:55-7:20 Sun 9:55 Mon-Thu 9:55-7:20
Here Comes the Boom (PG) Fri-Sat 10-12:10-2:25-7:05 Sun 12:10-2:25-7:05 Mon-Wed 10-12:10-2:25-7:05 Thu 12:10-2:25-7:05
Hotel Transylvania (PG) Fri-Thu 10:10-12:05-2:15-7
Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:10-5:10
Looper (14A) Fri-Sat 4:30-9:05 Sun 4:30 Mon-Thu 4:30-9:05
The Perks of Being a Wallflower (14A) Fri-Sat 4:40-9:15 Sun 4:40 Mon-Thu 4:40-9:15
The Sessions (14A) Fri-Sat 10:30-12:30-2:35-4:45-6:50-9 Sun 10:30-12:30-2:35-4:45-6:50 Mon-Thu 10:30-12:30-2:35-4:45-6:50-9
Taken 2 (14A) Fri-Sat 1-7:15-9:20 Sun 1-7:15 Mon-Wed 1-7:15-9:20 Thu 7:15-9:20 Thu 1

Rideau Centre Cinemas
50 Rideau St., 613-234-3712

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) Thu 10
Playing for Keeps (PG) Digital Fri 4-6:50-9:25 Digital Sat-Sun 1:10-4-6:50-9:25 Digital Mon-Thu 6:50-9:25
Rise of the Guardians (G) Digital Fri-Wed 9
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri 4:10-6:40 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:10-6:40 Mon-Thu 6:40
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG) Digital Fri 3:45-6:30-9:15 Digital Sat-Sun 1-3:45-6:30-9:15 Digital Mon-Thu 6:30-9:15
South Keys
2214 Bank St., 613-736-1115
A Christmas Story (STC) Sat 11
Flight (18A) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:45-6:50-10
Here Comes the Boom (PG) Fri-Thu 7:15-9:35
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) No Passes Thu 10
Hotel Transylvania (PG) Fri-Thu 10:40-12:45-3-5:05
Killing Them Softly (18A) Fri-Thu 10:15-12:30-2:45-5-7:30-10:05
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 10:20-1:10-4-6:55-9:50
The Metropolitan Opera: Un Ballo in Maschera Live (STC) Sat 12:55
Pitch Perfect (PG) Fri 11:30-2-4:40-7:10-9:40 Sat 7:10-9:40 Sun-Wed 11:30-2-4:40-7:10-9:40 Thu 11:30-2-4:40-10:10
Playing for Keeps (PG) Fri-Thu 11:20-1:55-4:30-7:05-9:45
Red Dawn (PG) Fri 10:30-12:10-2:35-5:10-7:40-10 Sat 10:30-5:25-7:40-10 Sun-Wed 10:30-12:10-2:35-5:10-7:40-10 Thu 10:30-11:10-1:35-4:10-6:40
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Thu 10:35-12:50
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri-Wed 3:10-5:30-7:50-10:10 Thu 3:30-6-8
Royal Opera House: The Nutcracker (STC) Thu 7:30
Skyfall (PG) Fri-Thu 11:35-12:05-2:55-3:25-6:15-6:45-9:25-9:55
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG) Fri 10:25-1:05-3:50-6:35-9:20 Sat 1:05-3:50-6:35-9:20 Sun-Thu 10:25-1:05-3:50-6:35-9:20
Wreck-It Ralph (PG) Fri-Thu 11:40
Wreck-It Ralph 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 2:10-4:45-7:20-9:45

Gatineau

Canadian Museum of civilization
100 rue Laurier, 819-776-7010

Arctique 3D (STC) Fri 9:45-4 Wed 4
Extreme (STC) Fri 10:45-12:55
Flight of the Butterflies 3D (STC) Fri 2-5 Sat 11:50-2-5-7 Sun 11:50-5 Mon 10:45-2 Tue 11:50-2-5 Wed 2-5 Thu 10:45-2-5-7
Grand Canyon: Fleuve en Peril (STC) Thu 11:50
L' incroyable voyage des papillons 3D (STC) Sat 12:55-4 Sun 12:55-6 Mon 11:50 Tue 10:45-12:55-4 Wed 12:55-7 Thu 9:30-4
L'Express des Rocheuses (STC) Tue 8 Wed 11:50
Mystery of the Maya (STC) Thu 12:55
Ride Around the World (STC) Fri 11:50
Rocky Mountain Express (STC) Sat 8 Sun 7 Mon 12:55 Wed 9:30-8 Thu 8
Space Junk 3D (STC) Fri 7-8 Sat 10:45-3 Sun 10:45-2
To the Arctic 3D (STC) Fri-Sun 3 Tue-Thu 3

Cinéma des Galeries d'Aylmer
400 boul. Wilfrid-Lavigne, 819-248-2526

Casse-Noisette: Bolshoi (STC) Sat 10 Sun 3:20
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (STC) Thu 10
The Man With the Iron Fists (13+) Fri-Sun 9:20 Tue-Wed 9:20
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Sun 1-7 Mon 7 Tue-Wed 1-7 Thu 7
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri-Sun 3:10 Tue 3:10
Skyfall (13+) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:30-6:40-9:30 Mon 6:40 Tue 12:40-3:30-6:40-9:30 Wed-Thu 9:30
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (STC) Fri-Sat 12:50-3:20-6:50-9:20 Sun 12:50-6:50-9:20 Mon 6:50 Tue 12:50-3:20-6:50-9:20 Wed 6:50-9:20
Ésimésac (G) Fri-Sun 1:10-3:30-7:10-9:30 Mon 7:10 Tue 1:10-3:30-7:10-9:30 Wed-Thu 7:10-9:30

Ciné-starz
1100 boul. Maloney Ouest, 819-568-8000

Activité paranormale 4 (13+) Fri-Sun 6-7:35-9:10 Mon-Thu 2-7:45-9:20
L'enlèvement 2 (13+) Fri-Sun 4:05-5:20-7-8:45 Mon-Thu 2-7:30-9:10
L'homme aux poings de fer (13+) Fri-Sun 5:25 Mon-Thu 1:55-5:40-7:20
L'ère de glace: La dérive des continents (G) Fri-Sun 12-2:05-3:45-7:05 Mon-Thu 12-3:40
La note parfaite (G) Fri-Sun 12-2-4 Mon-Thu 12-3:40-5:40
Rebelle (13+) Fri-Sun 12-1:45-3:30
Sinistre (13+) Fri-Sun 9 Mon-Thu 12-3:40-9:05
Vol (13+) Fri-Sun 1:40-6-8:30 Mon-Thu 1:40-4:05-6:30-9
À la poursuite de Mavericks (STC) Fri-Sun 12 Mon-Thu 12-5:25

Gatineau 9
120 boul. de l'Hôpital, 819-568-6070

Killing Them Softly (13+) Fri 9:15 Sat-Sun 4-9:15 Mon 9:15 Tue 4-9:15 Wed-Thu 9:15
L'amour en jeu (G) Fri 7:15-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:25-3:50-7:15-9:45 Mon 7:15-9:45 Tue 1:25-3:50-7:15-9:45 Wed-Thu 7:15-9:45
L'histoire de Pi 3D (G) Fri 6:50 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:35-6:50 Mon 6:50 Tue 12:50-3:35-6:50 Wed-Thu 6:50
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri-Thu 9:35
La mort en douce (13+) Fri 7:05 Sat-Sun 1:20-7:05 Mon 7:05 Tue 1:20-7:05 Wed-Thu 7:05
Le prénom (STC) Fri 6:40 Sat-Sun 12:40-6:40 Mon 6:40 Tue 12:40-6:40 Wed-Thu 6:40
Le réveil des gardiens 3D (G) Fri 7-9:05 Sat-Sun 1-3:10-7-9:05 Mon 7-9:05 Tue 1-3:10-7-9:05 Wed-Thu 7-9:05
La saga Twilight: Révélation - partie 2 (STC) Fri 6:45-9:20-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:20-3:45-6:45-9:20-9:40 Mon 6:45-9:20-9:40 Tue 1:15-3:20-3:45-6:45-9:20-9:40 Wed-Thu 7:10
Skyfall (13+) Fri 6:30-9:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:15-3:30-6:30-9:10-9:30 Mon 6:30-9:10-9:30 Tue 12:30-3:15-3:30-6:30-9:10-9:30 Wed-Thu 6:30-9:10-9:30
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (STC) Fri 7:10 Sat-Sun 12:45-7:10 Mon 7:10 Tue 12:45-7:10 Wed-Thu 7:10
Ésimésac (G) Fri 7:20-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:40-7:20-9:50 Mon 7:20-9:50 Tue 1:10-3:40-7:20-9:50 Wed-Thu 7:20-9:50

StarCité Hull
115 boul. du Plateau, 819-770-1090, cinemasfortune.ca

007: Skyfall (13+) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:15-7:20-10:25 Mon 4:15-7:20-10:25 Tue 1:10-4:15-7:20-10:25 Wed 4:15-7:20-10:25 Thu 10:25 Thu 1:10-4:15-7:20
A Christmas Story (STC) Sat 11
Flight (13+) Fri 1:05-4:10-7:15-10:20 Sat 1:05-7:15-10:20 Sun 1:05-4:10-7:15-10:20 Mon 4:10-7:15-10:20 Tue 1:05-4:10-7:15-10:20 Wed 4:10-7:15-10:20 Thu 1:05-4:10-7:15
Le hobbit : Un voyage inattendu 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 10:30
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 10:15

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Killing Them Softly (13+) Fri-Sun 1:05-3:30-5:55-8:20-10:45 Mon 5:55-8:20-10:45 Tue 1:05-3:30-5:55-8:20-10:45 Wed 5:55-8:20-10:45 Thu 1:05-3:30-5:55-8:20-10:45
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1:35-4:35-7:35-10:35 Mon 4:35-7:35-10:35 Tue 1:35-4:35-7:35-10:35 Wed 4:35-7:35-10:35 Thu 1:35-4:35-7:35-10:35
Lincoln (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:45-7-10:15 Mon 3:45-7-10:15 Tue 12:30-3:45-7-10:15 Wed 3:45-7-10:15 Thu 2-3:45-7-10:15
The Metropolitan Opera: Un Ballo in Maschera Live (STC) Sat 12:55
Les mondes de Ralph (STC) Fri-Sun 11:40-2:20-5-7:30-10:10 Mon 5-7:30-10:10 Tue 11:40-2:20-5-7:30-10:10 Wed 5-7:30-10:10 Thu 2:20-5-7:30-10:10
Playing for Keeps (G) Fri 12:05-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:30 Sat 12:05-4:10-5:15-7:50-10:30 Sun 12:05-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:30 Mon 5:15-7:50-10:30 Tue 12:05-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:30 Wed-Thu 5:15-7:50-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1:30
Red Dawn (13+) Fri 12:55-3:15-5:35-7:55-10:15 Sat 3:15-5:35-7:55-10:15 Sun 12:55-3:15-5:35-7:55-10:15 Mon 5:35-7:55-10:15 Tue 12:55-3:15-5:35-7:55-10:15 Wed 5:35-7:55-10:15 Thu 1:25-5:35-7:55-10:15
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Sun 11:50 Tue 11:50
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri-Sun 2:15-4:40-7:05-9:30 Mon 4:40-7:05-9:30 Tue 2:15-4:40-7:05-9:30 Wed 4:40-7:05-9:30 Thu 2:15-4:40-7:05
Le réveil des gardiens (G) Fri-Sun 12:10 Tue 12:10
Le réveil des gardiens 3D (G) Fri-Sun 2:40-5:10-7:35-10 Mon 5:10-7:35-10 Tue 2:40-5:10-7:35-10 Wed 5:10-7:35-10 Thu 2:40-5:10-7:35-10
La saga Twilight: Révélation - partie 2 (STC) Fri-Sun 11:45-2:30-5:15-8-10:45 Mon 5:15-8-10:45 Tue 11:45-2:30-5:15-8-10:45 Wed-Thu 5:15-8-10:45 Thu 1
Skyfall (13+) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:55-7-10:05 Mon 3:55-7-10:05 Tue 12:50-3:55-7-10:05 Wed 3:55-7-10:05 Thu 12:50-3:55-7-10:05
Thérèse Desqueyroux (G) Fri 1:35-4:10-6:45-9:10 Sat 11-1:35-4:10-6:45-9:10 Sun 1:35-4:10-6:45-9:10 Mon 4:10-6:45-9:10 Tue 1:35-4:10-6:45-9:10 Wed 4:10-6:45-9:10 Thu 12:50-3:15-5:40-8:05
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (STC) Fri-Sun 11:25-2:10-4:55-7:40-10:30 Mon 4:55-7:40-10:30 Tue 11:25-2:10-4:55-7:40-10:30 Wed 4:55-7:40-10:30 Thu 2:10-4:55-7:40-10:30
Une histoire de Noël (STC) Sat 11
Wreck-It Ralph (STC) Fri-Sun 12:20-2:55-5:30-8:05-10:40 Mon 5:30-8:05-10:40 Tue 12:20-2:55-5:30-8:05-10:40 Wed 5:30-8:05-10:40 Thu 2:55-5:30-8:05-10:40
Ésimésac (G) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15 Mon 5:15-7:45-10:15 Tue 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15 Wed 5:15-7:45-10:15 Thu 2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15

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Argo (14A) Fri 7:40-10:20 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:50-7:40-10:20 Mon-Wed 7:10-9:50 Thu 7:40-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) No Passes Thu 10
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri 7:05-10:10 Sat-Sun 1-4-7:05-10:10 Mon-Thu 7:05-9:45
The Metropolitan Opera: Un Ballo in Maschera Live (STC) Sat 12:55
Red Dawn (PG) Fri-Sat 7:55-10:25 Sun 12:25-2:55-5:25-7:55-10:25 Mon-Wed 7:55-10:25 Thu 7-9:15
Rise of the Guardians (G) Sat-Sun 11:45-2:10 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri 7:15-9:45 Sat-Sun 4:40-7:15-9:45 Mon-Wed 7:15-9:40 Thu 7:15-9:45
Skyfall (PG) Fri 7-10:10 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:40-7-10:10 Mon-Thu 7-10:10
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG) Fri 7:30-10:15 Sat-Sun 2:05-4:45-7:30-10:15 Mon-Thu 7:30-10:15
Wreck-It Ralph (PG) Sat-Sun 11:50-2:30 Wreck-It Ralph 3D (PG) Fri 7:40-10:05 Sat-Sun 5:05-7:40-10:05 Mon-Wed 7:40-10:05 Thu 7:10

Keira Knightley wears imperialist Russian style well in Anna Karenina.
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Anna Karenina (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:25-10:20
Argo (14A) Fri 1:45-4:25-7:15-10:10 Sat 1:55-7:15-10:10 Sun-Tue 1:45-4:25-7:15-10:10 Wed 1:45-4:25-10:10 Thu 1:45-4:25-7:15-10:10
A Christmas Story (STC) Sat 11
Flight (18A) Fri 1:25-4:35-7:40-10:40 Sat 4:35-7:40-10:40 Sun-Thu 1:25-4:35-7:40-10:40
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey — An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes Thu 10
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) No Passes Thu 10
Killing Them Softly (18A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:45
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:35-10:20
Lincoln (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:50-7:05-10:15
The Metropolitan Opera: Un Ballo in Maschera Live (STC) Sat 12:55
Miracle on 34th Street (G) Sun 12:45 Wed 7
Playing for Keeps (PG) Fri-Tue 12:05-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:30 Wed 5:15-7:50-10:30 Thu 12:05-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Red Dawn (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:25-5:55-8:10-10:25
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Thu 12:10
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri 2:35-5:10-7:45-10:05 Sat 11-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:05 Sun-Wed 2:35-5:10-7:45-10:05 Thu 2:35-5:10-7:45
Royal Opera House: The Nutcracker (STC) Thu 7:30
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri-Tue 1:15-4:15-7:10-9:55 Wed 4:15-7:10-9:55 Thu 1:15-4:15-7:10-9:55 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Skyfall (PG) Fri-Thu 3:55-9:50 Fri 12-12:25-3:10-3:40-6:30-7-10-10:15 Sat 10:45-12:25-3:40-6:30-7-10-10:15 Sun 12-3:10-3:40-6:30-7-10-10:15 Mon-Wed 12-12:25-3:10-3:40-6:30-7-10-10:15 Thu 12-12:25-3:10-3:40-6:30-10-10:15
Skyfall: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Wed 1:10-4:20-7:30-10:45 Thu 1:10-4:20
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-7 Fri 1:35-4:25-7:20-10 Sat 10:55-1:35-4:25-7:20-10 Sun-Thu 1:35-4:25-7:20-10
Wreck-It Ralph (PG) Fri 12:20 Sat 10:50-12:20 Sun-Thu 12:20
Wreck-It Ralph 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 2:55-5:30-8:05-10:35

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Flight (18A) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 6
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Thu 10
Killing Them Softly (18A) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 4:10-7:10-9:50 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 1:15-4:10-7:10-9:50 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Mon 7:10-9:50 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Tue 1:15-4:10-7:10-9:50 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Wed-Thu 7:10-9:50
Life of Pi (PG) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 3:40 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 12:30 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Tue 12:30
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 6:40-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 3:40-6:40-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon 6:40-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital Tue 3:40-6:40-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital Wed-Thu 6:40-9:40
Playing for Keeps (PG) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 3:30-7-9:35 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 12:50-3:30-7-9:35 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Mon 7-9:35 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Tue 12:50-3:30-7-9:35 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Wed-Thu 7-9:35
Red Dawn (PG) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 9:10
Rise of the Guardians (G) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 3:50 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 1 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Mon 6:30 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Tue 1 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Wed-Thu 6:30
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 6:30-8:55 Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 3:50-6:30-8:55 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon 8:55 Dolby Stereo Digital Tue 3:50-6:30-8:55 Dolby Stereo Digital Wed-Thu 8:55
Le réveil des gardiens (G) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 3 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 12:10-3 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Tue 12:10-3
Skyfall (PG) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 4-8 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 12:40-4-8 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Mon 8 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Tue 12:40-4-8 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Wed-Thu 8 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 3:10-6:25-9:40 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 12-3:10-6:25-9:40 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Mon 6:25-9:40 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Tue 12-3:10-6:25-9:40 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Wed 6:25-9:40 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Thu 6:25
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 3:20-6:10-9 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 12:20-3:20-6:10-9 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Mon 6:10-9 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Tue 12:20-3:20-6:10-9 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Wed-Thu 6:10-9
Wreck-It Ralph (PG) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 1:10 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Tue 1:10
Wreck-It Ralph 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Sun 4:05-6:50-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon 6:50-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital Tue 4:05-6:50-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital Wed-Thu 6:50-9:20
Ésimésac (PG) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 3:05-6:05-8:40 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 12:05-3:05-6:05-8:40 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Mon 6:05-8:40 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Tue 12:05-3:05-6:05-8:40 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Wed-Thu 6:05-8:40

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Kevin Houle, Alexandre Leroux et Gabrielle Néron
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Don't miss Last Chance

With Human Rights Day on December 10, the National Film Board of Canada is offering a free screening on their website of Last Chance, a documentary by Paul Émile d'Entremont featuring five asylum-seekers from Jamaica, Colombia, Lebanon, Egypt and Nicaragua who have fled homophobic violence. Check out NFB.ca, or metronews.ca/scene to see the trailer. CHARLES GAGNON

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The first eco-horror movie

Movies. Oscar winner Barry Levinson has made the Paranormal Activity of environmental movies. Get ready to be scared by The Bay

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

On July 4, 2009, tiny monsters popped out of the Chesapeake Bay near Washington D.C. and horrifically killed innocent people, leaving them battered, bloodied and infected. True story? No, but new movie The Bay pretends it is. The flick is filmed in found footage style à la The Blair Witch Project and Paranormal Activity. Hidden inside is an environmental message: Our waters are toxic. Oscar-winner Barry Levinson created the film, leading us to ask:

A found footage movie seems a strange choice for an Oscar winner. What made you want to do it?

Well, I would not have thought to do a movie like this. It was an evolution. I was approached by the people in Maryland to do a documentary about the Chesapeake Bay because it's 40 per cent dead. I looked into it, I found out that PBS had done a documentary that was terrific, but ultimately nobody really responded or cared or thought that we ought to do something about this largest estuary in the U.S. that's 40 per cent dead, filled with a toxic soup. Then a couple of weeks later I thought, maybe what you need to do is if you took all the facts and you pulled it into a story ... and you create characters, maybe the facts will become more frightening to us.

Is that the movie equivalent of sneaking medication into someone's dessert?

The information becomes vital to the storytelling. It becomes one and the same; it's connective that way. And so, I think it adds to the experience because it adds the credibility.

What are some of the conditions in the movie that come from those facts?

Well, take the drinking water. We know the filtration systems in the United States are basically D-rated. That's what they say, it met the standards. It's substandard, but it met the standards. We know our water quality is a D-minus. And we go, "Well that's good enough."

What about the monsters in the film?

They're really isopods and they do exist. They're not in the Chesapeake Bay, but they're in the Atlantic. In the scene where the oceanographer holds one up to the camera and says, "This is sea lice," that's not a CGI shot. That's a fish that has sea lice on it in South Carolina where we were filming. We've got a lot of stuff that's got a reality base to it that makes it even scarier.

Are there any efforts now to correct the situation in the Chesapeake Bay?

They say there are efforts to fix it. You could correct the damage if you put a real effort forward. Now they're doing some work, so I won't say they're not doing anything. But they're not doing what you have to do. You've got to be in an emergency mode. And I mean, it's all doable.

You can correct it. It's just, "Do you have the will to want to do it or not?"

"I'll never swim in the bay again." Movie still of an infested patient. LIONSGATE

The Bay is on iTunes now.
www.thebay-movie.com

Green heroes and zeroes

Heros

Gisele Bundchen

The Brazilian model was named the Best Green International Celebrity at last year's Green Awards, and since 2009 is UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador.

Daryl Hannah

The U.S. actress-activist has been arrested while at protests for eco groups. A vegan and the driver of a biodiesel car, Hannah records video blogs on sustainability.

Mark Ruffalo

Green on screen (as Hulk in The Avengers), green in life, the U.S. actor stopped by Metro's New York office for Earth Day last year to guest-edit the newspaper.

Zeros

Mariah Carey

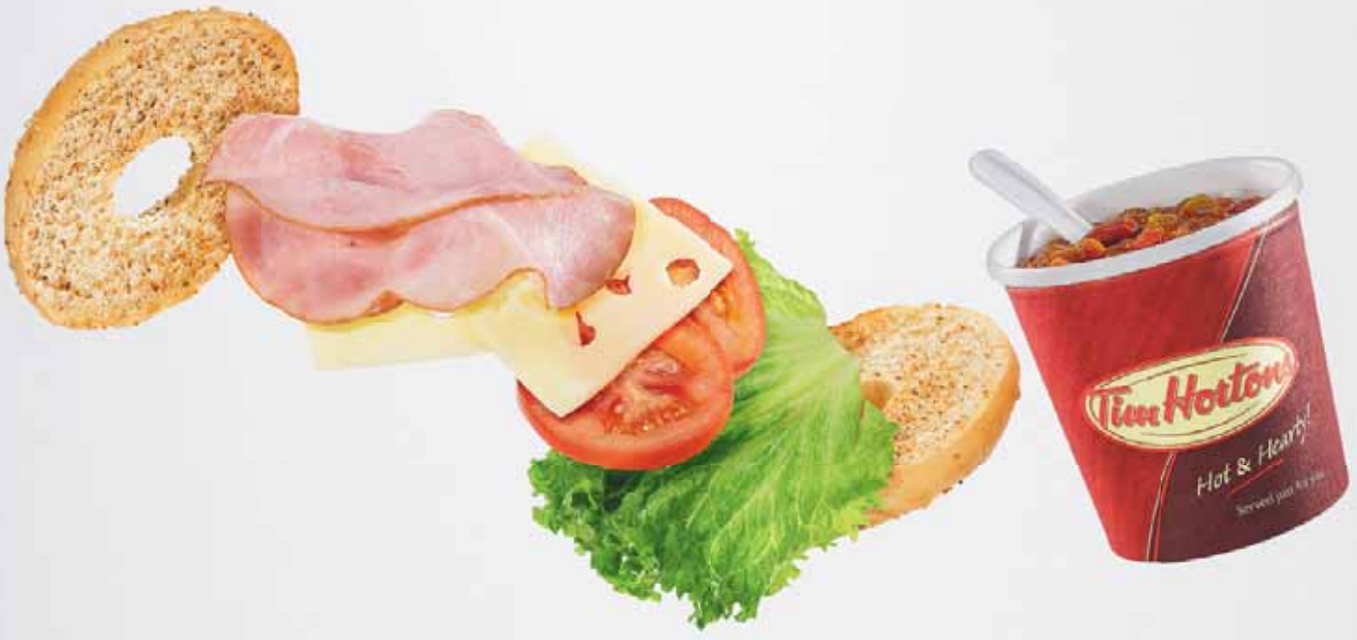
Airmiles addict diva is famous for an overindulgence of her private jet. She's even been known to fly a personal trainer into New York just for a workout.

John Travolta

His passion for aviation leaves a hefty carbon footprint. One group estimated that the actor's hobby generates an average of 800 tons of carbon emissions a year.

Toby Keith

The U.S. country music star warrants a mention for no other reason than releasing the song Red Solo Cup, which celebrates the popular plastic drinking vessel. **NED EHRBAR**



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Mars plans to play until his fingers bleed

New album. The out-of-the-box musician talks about what went into making his latest effort, Unorthodox Jukebox

NINA ETTRUP
Metro World News

Bruno Mars was born and raised in sunny Hawaii. He's sold millions of records. And he has those chocolatey brown eyes. His shirt is mostly unbuttoned and he speaks slowly while stirring milk into a huge cup of coffee and settling into a huge, brown leather couch.

Relaxed, cool and confident — that's how he appears while talking about his new album, Unorthodox Jukebox. And he probably is, at least today. But that's not how he feels all the time.

The 27-year-old singer had a very hard time getting started on the album, the successor to his hugely successful debut Doo-Wops & Hooligans from 2010.

"I went through writer's block — two months of being uninspired. It was just weeks and weeks of going back into the studio and trying to write something that means something. It's not easy. It gets scary, and I was afraid I'd never be able to write anything ever again," says the singer.

"Suddenly, for some reason, it started flowing again. That part of my brain turned back on," he explains.

Bruno Mars thinks that it was the many months that he spent on tour after releasing Doo-Wops & Hooligans that made it difficult to get back into song-writing mode.

"Maybe it was because I was coming off tour and I was trying to get my mind to work like that again. You have such a repetitive life on tour, travelling and singing the same songs over and over again. When you take all of that away, the transition … You've been playing the same chords and now you're trying to teach yourself new chords," he says.

Even though he's named after professional wrestler Bruno Sammartino, music, not sports, was No.1 in Bruno Mars' childhood home in Hawaii.

Both his parents are singers, and he's been performing in front of a real audience — not just mom and dad in the backyard — since he was three or four years old.

He's had the same idols since then too.

He's still a fan of Michael Jackson, Prince, Freddie Mercury and Sting — and yes, his new hit song Locked Out of Heaven may sound somewhat like The Police, he admits, grinning.

"There's an '80s kind of a feel to it. It wasn't planned, but my love for these chord progressions and the synth drum machines that were popularized in the 80s came out on this album much more than on the first one. I feel like … in the '80s there were singers, real strong singers," he says.

"Today, it's more like 'the era of computer-programmed.' There's a beauty in that too — I'm not a snob that's gonna say, 'This is not real music.'"

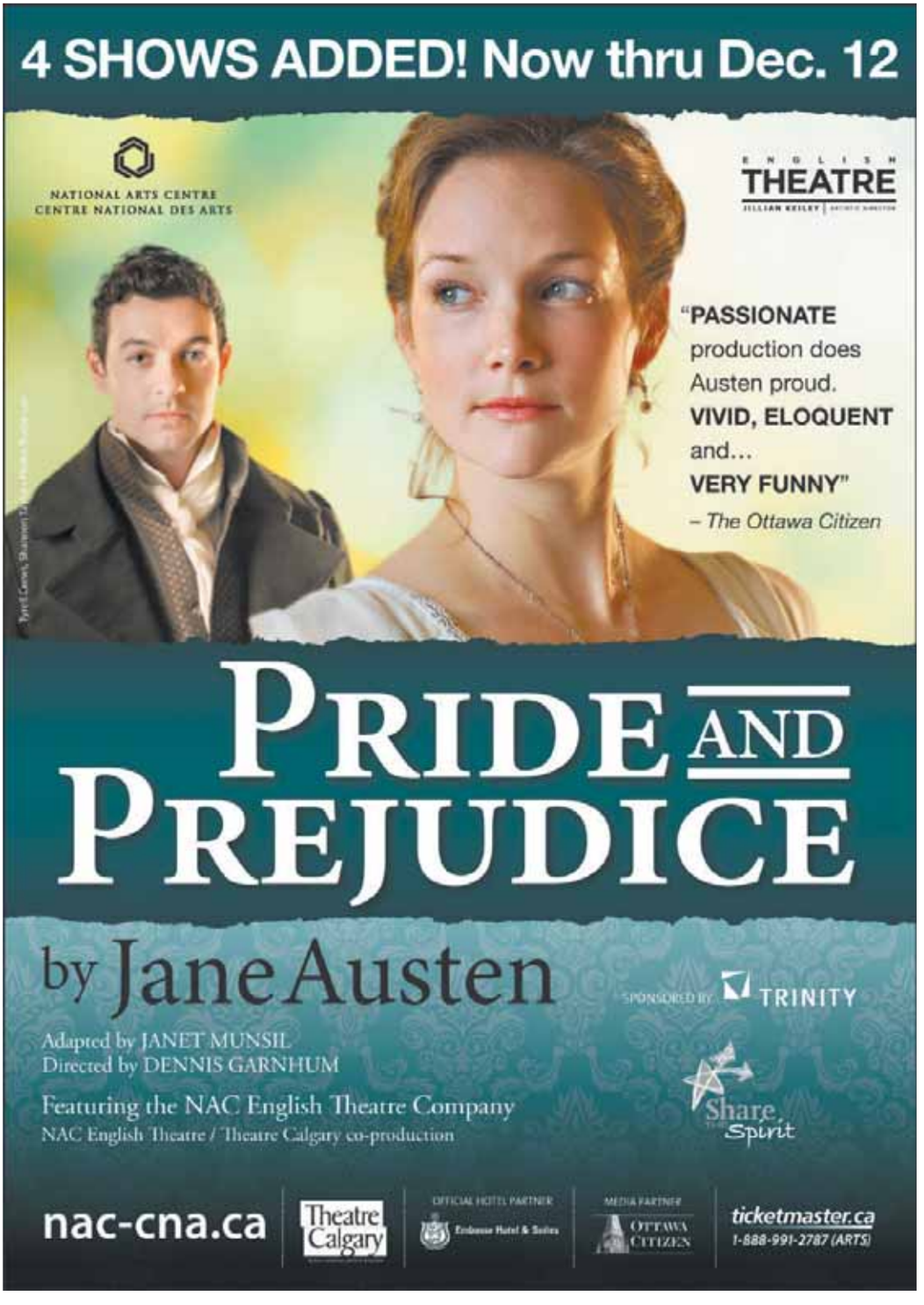
It's just not his taste. Bruno Mars likes the guys who played their instruments, till — as Bryan Adams said — their fingers bled. And that's how he's made a career for himself too.

A little more from Bruno

One more quote from Bruno Mars.

- **On the title of the album Unorthodox Jukebox.** "I was always told that my music was too unorthodox, too all over the place. That really chapped my ass, because I'm all over the place. The way I write music and all the music that I enjoy is what makes me unorthodox. To the suits that's a bad thing, because they have to think about marketing and what radio station will play this song and who will listen to it. Is it a young audience? An urban audience? A rock audience? I never understood all these questions."

Bruno Mars is anything but your standard musician. JAMES MOONEY



Industry relying on Ke$ha, Bruno Mars, Angels & Airwaves

SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

We've almost reached the end of the 2012 album release season. Will these albums help keep sales ahead of last year?

1 Dirty Love/ Ke$ha feat. Iggy Pop

This was one of the tracks that leaked early from Ke$ha's Warrior album. Includes the lyrics "Cockroaches do it in garbage cans/ Rug merchants do it in Afghanistan."

2 Young Girls/ Bruno Mars

The second video from Unorthodox Jukebox, which is due out on Tuesday. His label is hoping for a No. 1 debut.

3 Reel 1 (Diary)/ Angels & Airwaves

One of the very last big-name releases of the year will come with Tom Hoppus' (Blink 182) side project on Dec. 18. Stomping the Phantom Brake Pedal is officially a double EP of "evolved" and "reimagined" tracks.

Snooki and JWOWW to host MTV's New Year's Eve special

Times Square. Ke$ha, Ne-Yo and Sean Kingston to perform during 'sweaty, drunken, dance-fueled orgy of bliss'

New York's Times Square is getting a little bit Jersey for New Year's Eve.

MTV says Jersey Shore stars Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi and Jenni "JWOWW" Farley, as well as comedian Jeff Dye, will host the network's live New Year's Eve special from Times Square.

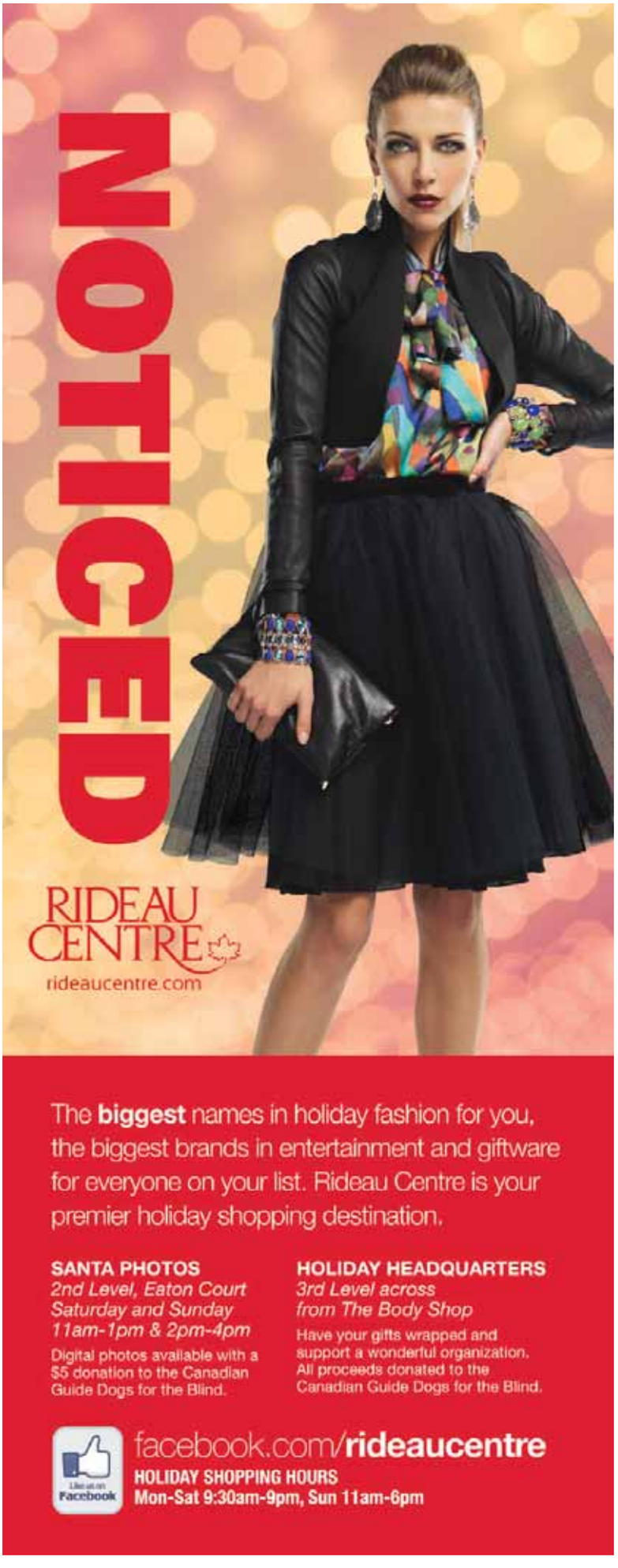
MTV's Club NYE 2013 will also feature performances from Ke$ha, Ne-Yo, Sean Kingston, Rita Ora and others. Ke$ha described the final night of the year as a time when people come together to celebrate "in a sweaty, drunken, dance-fueled orgy of bliss."

Polizzi said she is hoping to use "a leopard bedazzled microphone" for her hosting duties.

Snooki hopes to use a leopard bedazzled mic while hosting a live New Year's Eve special with JWOWW. GETTY IMAGES

The special is set to air at 11 p.m. ET on Dec. 31.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

'Tis the season in the city for these two starlets

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Sarah Jessica Parker and Naomi Watts not only juggle A-list acting careers as well as their families, but they also somehow find the time to take advantage of New York City's many cultural opportunities (annoying, I know).

"We have incredible museums that are affordable and free, we have tons of wonderful ballet companies. I try to do all these things with my children. Simply walking up and down the streets of New York — there's art everywhere, there's things to talk about," said Parker Thursday night at the New 42 Gala, which honoured the Australia Council for the Arts as well as supported the New Victory Education Program.

Naomi Watts — who was there with her children, Sasha, 5, and Samuel, 4, and partner Liev Schreiber — agrees. "We've done a few shows with the kids. It's a treat," she said.

But lest you think Parker and Watts are so perfect they only fill their childrens' heads with intellectual goodness, rest assured both women have fallen prey to holiday craziness.

"We're pretty conventional," says Parker about her holidays with her family, which includes husband, actor Matthew Broderick, son James, 10, and twin daughters Marion and Tabitha, 3. "We like to be together, we like to eat, we play Yankee Trader."

Meanwhile, it seems like the Liev/Watts household has fallen victim to the holiday terrorist that is Elf on the Shelf. (For those of you lucky enough not to know what this is, the Elf on the Shelf is a doll who allegedly spies on your kids at Christmas time and has to be moved night after night by the parents. It's great for about a hot minute.)

"I think they're getting into the whole Santa Claus thing," Watts said about her little family. "They've got the Elf on the Shelf and every night he moves."

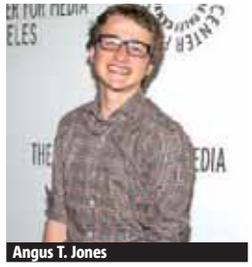
WITH REPORTING BY OLIVIA MORROW

A second sleepover for Swift and Styles

Taylor Swift ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

The fledging romance between Taylor Swift and One Direction star Harry Styles appears to be heating up pretty quickly, if their latest rendezvous are any indication. Styles was spotted trying to sneak into the New York City hotel where Swift is staying, an overnight bag over his shoulder, according to Hollyscoop. That's the second night in a row the young music stars have spent together at the hotel this week.

Damage control a breeze after Sheen



Angus T. Jones

The recent hubbub over Angus T. Jones urging fans to stop watching his hit sitcom, Two and a Half Men, and calling the show "filth" was apparently nothing the folks at CBS couldn't handle, at least according to network head Les Moonves. "I don't think (the Angus situation has) quite been resolved, but after going through what we went through with Charlie Sheen, it's been a piece of cake," Moonves says in a statement to TMZ.

Kate Middleton

Sovereign stork to arrive in the summer

It's going to be a summer baby for Kate Middleton, according to Life & Style. "She's due in July, which is a month full of significance for William," a source says. "His mother, Diana, was born on July 1, and his parents got married on July 29." As for who the godparents will be for the new prince or princess? Signs are pointing to Prince Harry and Pippa Middleton, according to ABC News. "Kate is very close to her sister, Pippa, and William is infinitely, in the same way, close to Prince Harry. So they are the obvious choice," royal contributor Victoria Arbiter Brown says. "They were the best man and the chief bridesmaid at their wedding, they're well-trusted, they're family."

Danny DeVito

Rhea Pearlman

Danny and Rhea's relationship as sunny as always?

Despite announcing in October that they'd separated, Danny DeVito and Rhea Pearlman aren't actually all that separated — at least according to DeVito. When asked by Extra how he's adjusting to life as a single man, DeVito says, "It's not something you adjust to. Rhea and I are really close. Actually still together, just separate, but together." In fact, DeVito insists divorce may not be in the cards for the Cheers alums. "We're working on it," he says when asked if a reconciliation might be on the way.

Twitter

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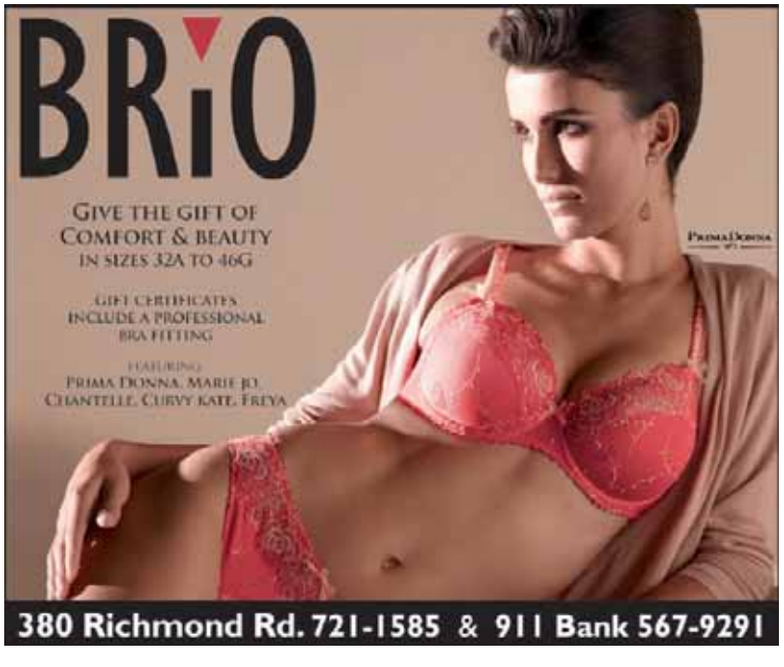
that fantastic moment when Bohemian Rhapsody comes on the radio and you just blast it and rock out so hard you just forget all you problems

@samantharonson
If u start a tweet with- I'm not a hater, but- um- YOU'RE A HATER

@WhitneyCummings
Lizzy Caplan doesn't have Twitter, so go to her house to tell her she's awesome: 6750 Sunset Blvd., LA, CA 90028

@MarkDuplass
anybody know where i put my ability to spell words correctly? i swear, i just had it.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Liquid Assets

Restore port's regal nature

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

If there's a liquid silver lining to winter being around the corner, it's that port season has officially arrived.

This time of year provides chilly nights and the opportunity for roaring fires, both perfect companions to a glass of the king of Portuguese wine.

For some of you, port carries more baggage than the Kardashian sisters on a three- day vacation. The term has been used by countries the world over (including Canada) on the labels of generic, booze-infused wines that totally take the regal name of port in vain.

Most have stopped, and true port is finding a new audience as a luxurious meal ender or cigar companion (if you're so inclined).

Choosing the port that's right for you can be a struggle. Most are expensive and not all are appropriate for drinking right away.

A Late Bottled Vintage style, like Taylor's 2005 LBV ($16.45 to $24.99), is a mid-priced blend of wines all produced in the same year. Smooth, with deep, dark berry fruit, an LBV is drinkable right out of the bottle, will keep for several weeks once opened and makes a great introduction to the world of port. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

Step up fancy factor with Prime Veal Chop

Prime Veal Chop with Pesto and Feta Cheese. It may be hard to believe, but this delicious recipe takes just three ingredients to make

ROSE REISMAN
for more, visit
rosereisman.com

This recipe serves four. BRIAN MACDONALD, FROM ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS)

I created this recipe for The Pickle Barrel chain of restaurants in Toronto.

The veal chop is beautifully lean and tender.

The combination of pesto and feta complements it beautifully and gives the dish a Mediterranean twist.

This goes well with grilled vegetables and mashed potatoes.

Ingredients

4 portions
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 14 minutes

- four 6- to 8-oz prime veal chops with bone in (also known as the French cut)
- 2 tbsp pesto
- 2 tbsp crumbled feta cheese

1. Preheat the oven to 425 F. Line a baking sheet with foil and spray with cooking oil.

2. Spray a non-stick skillet with cooking oil and place over medium-high heat. Cook the veal on both sides just until seared and browned, approximately 2 minutes per side. Place on the prepared baking sheet.

3. Spread both sides of the veal with pesto sauce and sprinkle with the feta, patting the cheese down firmly.

4. Bake for approximately 10 minutes, until the internal temperature registers about 135 F for medium-rare, or to desired doneness. Let rest 5 minutes before serving. **ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN**

What's your favourite local brewery?
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MIX OF SIX
Samantha Everts
ottawa@metronews.ca

Diamond Rings

With his David Bowie-like low voice, glitzy costumes and critically lauded new pop album, Free Dimensional, one-man band Diamond Rings will have Ritual nightclub packed this Friday night. Get glammed up and sing the anthemic I'm Just Me with beautiful indie rockers ready to dance the night away to his '80s style beats. Dec. 7. Visit diamondrings-music.com.

Crush improv

The funniest cats in town are celebrating five years of inducing side-splitting laughter as Crush Improv, Ottawa's answer to the Groundlings. The quintet of award-winning actors and self-confessed professional make-believers will be reuniting with former members, special guests for an unforgettable night of comedy at University of Ottawa's Academic Hall. Dec. 7. Visit crushimprov.com.

Digi60

Up for a different dose of film reality? Digi60 challenges local filmmakers to create a short film or documentary in 60 days around a theme (reunion) and catchphrase. Spot some budding Spielbergs as the film community comes together with the final films to be screened at Saint Brigid's on Saturday night. Dec. 8. Visit digi60.org.

Great Canadian Tease Burlesque Brunch

Serving up some sexy with your Belgian waffles, talented performers from Ottawa Burlesque Playground and Capital Tease are offering a non-traditional brunch show (tassles included). Maxwell's Bistro will feature the always hilarious Mansfield Brothers boylesque and fire-breathing Rhapsody Blue along with friends from other troupes doing Christmas-themed performances. Sunday, Dec. 9. Visit maxwellsbistro.com.

Westboro Holiday Food Market

Foodies will not want to miss the first specialty fair market with 22 celebrated gourmet food artisans like Like of Pie and Pascale's Ice Cream offering up holiday treats. Go on an empty stomach to try homemade tortieres, macaroons, sauces and other tasty treats at the Westboro Masonic Hall on Sunday afternoon. Dec. 9. Visit osfa.ca.

The Nutcracker

A family holiday tradition, the Alberta Ballet brings the classic performance of The Nutcracker to the NAC stage until Sunday. Watch the young Klara delight in the magic dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy with the Nutcracker Prince and be transported to 19th century Russia through the timeless Tchiakovsky score. Dec. 5 to 9. Visit nac-cna.ca.

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HOLIDAY 2012 m gift guide

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The tree this Yoda will top; dress up your kids for the season — PAGES 34, 36

Look your best during — and after — the holidays — PAGES 38, 39, 40

Click on these ideas for the videophile on your gift list — PAGE 32

18 shopping days left

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Television Wonderland

Sharp 90-inch LED TV — $9,999.99, below, Panasonic Viera TCL42U5 — $499, right.

Options for your viewing pleasure

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Wouldn't it be nice to wake up to a brand new television Christmas morning?

Whether you are looking for a new TV or simply want to add to your home theatre, there are plenty of options for you or the videophile on your shopping list.

Panasonic Viera TCL42U5 — $499

Not everyone needs all the bells and whistles of some of the more expensive televisions on the market. Sometimes you just want to watch TV. This 42-inch 1080p LCD TV gives a great picture for a fraction of the price of most other sets. You still get a variety of inputs (including three HDMI) plus you will benefit from Eco mode, which will save you money on your energy bills.

LG Cinema 3D LM9600 — $2,299

If your heart is set on a 3-D TV, look no further than this LED TV from LG. It has the ability to convert any 2-D content into breath-taking 3-D on the fly. Everything can be controlled through simple gestures using the Magic Remote, or simply tell your TV what you want it to do through voice control. You will find tons of inputs on the back, plus it's Wi-Fi enabled.

Sharp 90-inch LED TV — $9,999.99

Good luck bringing this one down the chimney Santa! Sharp's 90-inch LED TV is the largest in Canada. Experience movies the way they were meant to be seen — on the big screen. The larger screen allows for bigger speakers, giving you a theatre-like experience right in your home. Gamers will enjoy the Vyper Drive feature that reduces lag times while playing games. You can also connect wirelessly to the web or enjoy apps such as Netflix. This beautiful television comes with a hefty price tag, so don't even think about asking for it if there is even the slightest chance you are on the naughty list.

Samsung Blu-ray Player BD-E6500 — $219

Not only can this Blu-ray device play your favourite high-definition movies in 2-D and 3-D, it can turn any TV into a smart TV with built-in apps such as Netflix, YouTube and Facebook. If you already own a Samsung smartphone you can use it to control the action. The built-in USB port also allows playback of videos, photos and music from your USB devices.

Samsung Blu-ray Player BD-E6500 — $219, left, Logitech Harmony 650 Remote — $79.99, above, Apple TV — $109, top right.

Apple TV — $109

Access all of your iTunes content directly on your television. This tiny media player ensures all of your movies, TV shows, and music are readily available, plus get access to Netflix, YouTube and Vimeo without logging onto your computer. One of my favourite features has to be AirPlay, which allows you to stream content from your iPad, MacBook, or iMac right to your television with a simple click. Great for presentations or simply playing games and apps on the big screen.

Logitech Harmony 650 Remote — $79.99

At one time you had to pay a fortune to get an amazing universal remote. The Harmony 650 proves that's no longer the case. Complete with colour display, this advanced remote can control up to five devices at a fraction of the price of other high-end remotes. While it does require an Internet connected PC or Mac to set up, once it's up and running it simplifies even the most complex home theatre setup so everyone in the family can use it.

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Deck the halls

Metal Owl Ornament, $12.50, available at Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca.

Natural Woodland Owl Ornament, $12.50, available at Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca.

Winter Owl Ornament, $12.50, available at Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca.

Prancing Deer, $1, available at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

Bark Reindeer Ornament, $4.50, available at Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca.

Claydough Robots, $2, available at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

Plaid Moose Ornament, $2, available at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

Yoda Wireform, $74.99, available at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

Starbucks Cup Ornaments, $5.45, available at Starbucks, starbucks.ca.

Glitter Bird Ornament, $9.50, available at Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca.

Snowflake Ornament In Sterling Silver, $195, available at Tiffany & Co., tiffany.ca.

JULMYS Hanging Decoration, 3-pack, $6.99, available at Ikea, ikea.com/ca.

Santa Yoda Tree Topper, $49.99, available at RetroFestive, RetroFestive.ca

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Kid-friendly gear

Girls Sequin Dress, $18, available at Walmart, walmart.ca.

The Rockstar Pop Colour Skinny Jeans, $44.50, available at Old Navy, oldnavy.ca.

Boys Sweater, $12, available at Walmart, walmart.ca.

Firefly Fuzzy Animal Toque, $19.99 each, available at Sport Chek, sportchek.ca.

Hooded Sweater Dress With Leggings, $19.99, available at Winners, winners.ca.

Boys Hoodie, $12, available at Walmart, walmart.ca.

Pink Ruffle Cuff Kneesocks, $4.99, available at all Payless stores, payless.com.

EMU Australia Little Creatures, $95, available at EMU Australia, emuaustralia.com.

Toddler Wazzup Beanie, Various Styles, $20 each, available at O'Neill, oneill.com.

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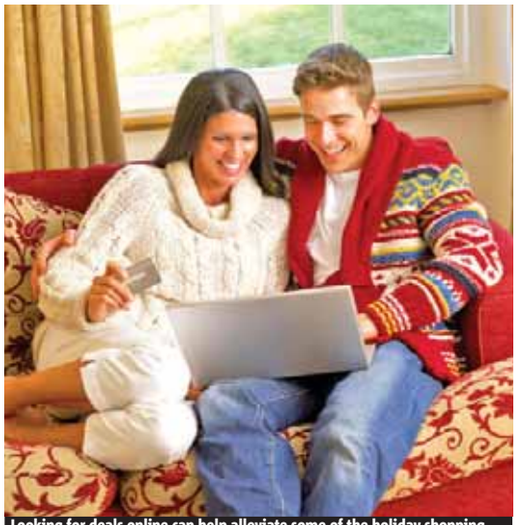

Looking for deals online can help alleviate some of the holiday shopping stress. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

Take stress out of shopping

Checking your list. Shop online, buy gifts as a group and look for giveaways

EDEN SPODEK
YummyMummyClub.ca

December is supposed to be the time of holiday cheer.

Yet, so often we get stressed out when it comes to holiday shopping. Stores are crowded, kids are nagging for that "must-have" new toy or electronic gadget, not to mention teachers' gifts, and something for the BFF who has everything but insists on upholding the gift exchange you have been doing since you shared a university dorm. Then there's finding that special something for the love of your life. Here are some tips to help make life easier, not just this month, but all year round.

Make a list in advance

When you make a list in advance and stick to it, you will reduce the risk of impulse buying and cut down on browsing time.

Buy teachers' gifts as a class

Get together with other parents and pool your money together so you can buy a group gift. Gift certificates from a local bookstore or mall allow your child's teacher to choose something they will enjoy instead of toss out.

Donate to a favourite charity in someone's honour

Pretty much every charity accepts donations online — it's quick and easy, and with a minimum donation you will get a tax receipt, too. It may not be as much fun as unwrapping presents but it feels wonderful to do something for others less fortunate while cutting down on unnecessary gifts.

Shop online

Browse, research, comparison shop, and find unique gifts all from the comfort of your own keyboard. It's easy to look for the best deals. With the strong Canadian dollar, consider cross-border shopping. Look for retailers who offer deals on shipping and free gift wrapping, too.

Watch for online giveaways

There are lots of great giveaways on blogs, Twitter and community sites, including YummyMummyClub. The chances of winning are surprisingly pretty good.

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A beauty bounty

JANINE FALCON
For Metro

From beauty empowerment to fragranced skin, from shimmering nails to luscious hair, these gift ideas have her (and you) covered.

More than a makeup book, **Bobbi Brown Pretty Powerful** (Chronicle Books, 2012) is a confidence-builder from a pro who empowers with must-try tips and tricks. $34.95 hardcover, chapters.indigo.ca.

Give her nail polish collection a brand new sheen with **YSL La Laque Couture Top Coat in Première Neige**, an iridescent top coat that sparkles over any colour. $27, Holt Renfrew.

Any scent from the Byredo Parfums collection is a unique and special gift for fragrance lovers; **Byredo Black Saffron**, an Oriental Spicy eau de parfum is the newest. $235, Holt Renfrew.

Luscious **LoveFresh Lemon Verbena Body Butter** pampers skin with aloe, chamomile and calendula extracts, and is made sans parabens or petrolatum. $24, lovefresh.com.

Glamorous yet understated like its creator Aerin Lauder, the **Aerin Holiday Style Palette** offers foolproof shadows and subtle highlight powder. $78, esteelauder.ca.

Feminine and fragrant, **Valentino Valentina Body Scrub** is a creamy exfoliant in a lovely frosted jar she'll keep for years. $78, thebay.com.

The award-winning complexion-saver of the season, this natural moisture booster relieves exczema. **Consonant HydrExtreme Serum**, $72, consonantbody.com.

She'll swoon over **MAC's Sinfully Chic Face Kit**, a charming neutral makeup + brush set. Trust. $85, maccosmetics.com.

Soft, shiny, swingy hair is hers with silicone-free **Shu Uemura Cleansing Oil Shampoo**, which gently purifies all hair types, including fine, limp, and oily. $55.

Above: Valentino Valentina Body Scrub. Above left: LoveFresh Lemon Verbena Body Butter. Left: Aerin Holiday Style Palette.

From bottom left to bottom right: MAC's Sinfully Chic Face Kit, Byredo Black Saffron, Consonant HydrExtreme Serum, YSL La Laque Couture Top Coat in Première Neige, Shu Uemura Cleansing Oil Shampoo.

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koodo shop
Ottawa: Bayshore Shopping Centre, Carlingwood Mall, Les Galeries de Hull, Place d'Orléans, Promenades de l'Outaouais, Rideau Centre, St. Laurent Centre
Belleville: Quinte Mall
Brockville: 1000 Islands Mall
Cornwall: Cornwall Square
Kingston: Cataraqui Town Centre
(1) Price with the Tab. Subject to approved credit. (2) Bonus gift will vary by store location and value of phone. See store for full details. Bonus gift available with new activations only. While quantities last.

Grooming gifts for him

Calvin Klein Encounter, above.

JANINE FALCON
For Metro

From wake-up to spruce-up, these manly gift ideas will help him put his best self forward before his first coffee of the day.

Perk up his morning routine with the ultra-fresh **L'Occitane Verdon Adventure** set, which includes shower gel, soap, deodorant and eau de toilette. $82, loccitane.ca.

He'll appreciate the weightless **Biotherm Homme Force Supreme** anti-aging formulas that promise smoother, firmer, more comfortable skin. Lotion, $45 and Serum, $70; biotherm.ca.

If he's into natural stuff, he'll dig non-oily **Weleda After Shave Balm**, which cools and soothes with organic jojoba seed oil, aloe and myrrh. $26.99, well.ca.

Set him up for next November with the waterproof **Philips Styleshaver**, which trims, styles and shaves with easy precision. $99.99, personaledge.com.

He doesn't have to be a sexy vampire (or an actor who plays one) to wear **Calvin Klein Encounter**, a warm, woody scent. $67, thebay.com.

Ideal for the man who likes simple yet sophisticated skincare, **Shiseido's Men's Essentials Gift Set** includes a handsome toiletry case. $70, thebay.com

Help him love his hair more with **Kerastase Anti-Oiliness Daily Treatment Shampoo** and **Leave-In Treatment**. $36 each, kerastase.com.

For the multi-tasking man, the **Jack Black Core Collection** includes cleanser+toner, shave-oil cream+skin conditioner, and moisturizer+SPF. $52, ebeauty.ca.

Stock his gym bag with zesty essentials, such as **Crabtree & Evelyn's West Indian Lime Travel Set**. $26, Crabtree & Evelyn boutiques.

Above: Jack Black Core Collection. Right: Kerastase Anti-Oiliness Daily Treatment Shampoo.
Below: Shiseido's Men's Essentials Gift Set.

From bottom left to bottom right: L'Occitane Verdon Adventure set, Biotherm Homme Force Supreme, Philips Styleshaver, Weleda After Shave Balm, Crabtree & Evelyn's West Indian Lime Travel Set.

BYWARD MARKET
MARCHÉ BY

Christmas in the ByWard Market

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THE SCOTTISH AND IRISH STORE

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EAST END STORE 1713 ST. LAURENT BLVD. (INNES RD) 613-739-3393
OTTAWA WWW.SCOTTISHANDIRISHSTORE.COM

IRISH KNIT SWEATERS

Buy 2 Carraig Donn Wool Sweaters and receive a $25 Store Gift Card

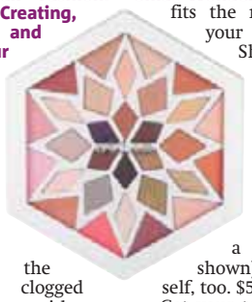
Teen dream beauty and body care

JANINE FALCON
For Metro

From savvy style advice to smart skincare to totally adorbs makeup, great gift ideas for the teens in your life.

An energizing citrus kick in the morning shower via a **LUSH Cool Christmas** duo is just the thing for sleepyhead teens. $16.95, lush.ca

Whether your teen is obsessed with fashion or just developing his or her own style, **Learn to Speak Fashion: A Guide to Creating, Showcasing and Promoting Your Style** (Owl Kids, 2012) offers smart insider insight, advice and encouragement you'll love too. $16.95 paperback, chapters.indigo.ca.



Put the kybosh on clogged teenage pores with a **Clarisonic Mia** for deep-cleaning sessions every other day. $139, sephora.ca.

No girl can resist mini beauty treats; the **Soap & Glory Small Wonders Gift Set** totes fits the mini bill (and your wallet). $20, Shoppers Drug Mart.

If you love makeup, you'll want to snag a **Stila Snow Angel Color Palette** — 18 shadows, 12 blushes and a mascara (not shown) — for yourself, too. $51, sephora.ca.

Get your teen on a good-skin regimen with a **Dermalogica Clean Start Starter Kit**, which handles pesky zits, too. $45.50, cleanstart.dermalogica.com.ca

From the fashion queen of whimsy, this **Anna Sui Holiday Collection** includes blush, shadow, lip gloss and a sweet lacy pouch. $50, Sears.ca and Murale.ca.

The Body Shop For Men Maca Root Scrub & Shave Set sets your young fellow up with face wash, moisturizer — and eye cream Dad can swipe. $35, thebodyshop.ca.

Nourishing essentials for feet and hands, such as the **Burt's Bees Best of Burt's Bees Set**, are easy stocking stuffers. $24.99, burtsbees.ca.

Middle and left: Stila makeup palettes.

From bottom left to bottom right: Burt's Bees Best of Burt's Bees Set, The Body Shop For Men Maca Root Scrub & Shave Set, Clarisonic Mia, LUSH Cool Christmas, Dermalogica Clean Start Starter Kit.

Above: Anna Sui Holiday Collection.

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4 SPORTS

MLB

Star free agents left waiting after winter meetings

As teams headed home from the baseball winter meetings on Thursday in Nashville, the biggest free agents were still on the market.

The availability of slugger Josh Hamilton and pitcher Zack Greinke held up decisions on other signings and possible trades involving Rangers star Michael Young and the Mets' Cy Young Award winner R.A. Dickey.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MMA

'Rowdy' Rousey to top marquee of February UFC card

"Rowdy" Ronda Rousey will make her UFC debut Feb. 23 in the main event of UFC 157 against Liz Carmouche.

The UFC will showcase women's MMA for the first time at the Honda Center in Anaheim, Calif.

UFC president Dana White presented Rousey with her UFC bantamweight championship belt after Thursday's news conference featuring fighters on Saturday's televised card in Seattle. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ronda Rousey shows off her UFC bantamweight championship belt on Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sidney Crosby listens as NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr speaks to reporters on Thursday in New York. MARY ALTAFFER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fehr-ing the worst: NHL talks stall again

Day 82. No negotiations planned after NHLPA's proposal rejected by league

Quoted

"It looks like this is not going to be resolved in the immediate future."

NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr

The NHL labour talks have hit another roadblock — and this one appears to be massive.

After two optimistic days that suggested a deal could be imminent, negotiations between the league and the NHL Players' Association broke off dramatically Thursday.

The NHLPA presented a new offer on Thursday afternoon, a proposal that union head Donald Fehr called "a clear outline" to end the dispute.

Fehr said he believed the two sides are "clearly very close if not on top of one another in connection with most of the major issues."

The league flatly rejected the offer, saying the two sides aren't close despite what Fehr says.

"I don't know why he did that," an angry Gary Bettman told a news conference.

The NHL commissioner said any new offers the league made this week are now off the table.

"The take or give or bottom line on all this is: It appears that the union is suggesting because we made substantial movements in certain areas that we're close to a deal," said Bettman. "But those moves were contingent on the union specifically agreeing on other things, which while the union may have moved towards, didn't agree to."

During talks this week, the league said it was willing to increase the amount of deferred transition money paid to the players to $300 million US — which sat directly between what had most recently been tabled by the NHL ($211 million) and NHLPA ($393 million).

Another issue that surfaced was the league's desire to see a 10-year term on the collective bargaining agreement. The union's offer Thursday was for eight years with an option for opting out after Year 6.

"I'm disappointed beyond belief that we are where we are tonight," said Bettman.

Fehr's comments took an equally negative tone.

"What can we tell the hockey fans of Canada? You can tell them that it looks like this is not going to be resolved in the immediate future," Fehr said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Steelers hope 'Big Ben' bulletproof in return

Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger watches last Sunday's game against the Ravens from the sidelines. Roethlisberger will return to the starting lineup this Sunday with some high-tech extra protection. ROBB CARR/GETTY IMAGES FILE

The Pittsburgh Steelers aren't taking any chances with their franchise quarterback's sprained right shoulder and dislocated rib.

Though the Steelers confirmed Ben Roethlisberger will return to the starting lineup on Sunday against San Diego after missing three weeks due to injury, Roethlisberger will take the field with a little extra protection.

Roethlisberger will play with a custom-fit rib/chest compression shirt and a layer of Kevlar-lined composite in his shoulder pads to help absorb hits to his clavicle and shoulder joint regions.

The padding has grown popular across the NFL.

The composite — about a half-inch thick — in Roethlisberger's shoulder pads is similar to the gear Unequal Technologies puts in its chest protectors for baseball catchers. Roethlisberger said last week his shoulder pads had been "juiced up" by trainers.

Whatever he's wearing, the Steelers (7-5) are eager to have him back on the field. Roethlisberger took "90 per cent" of the first-team snaps on Thursday without any major issues.

"He looks like himself for the most part," offensive co-ordinator Todd Haley said. "Now I don't know what he's feeling when he's doing some of those things. But it looks like he's moving around pretty good."

Roethlisberger said he felt "good" but declined to expand. Haley doesn't expect there to be any limitations to the playbook, though he joked he might not call as many designed run plays for his quarterback, who never met a play he didn't like to extend. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I think he brings a dimension to the team that nobody else can bring."

Steelers wide receiver Mike Wallace on Ben Roethlisberger

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	13	4	.765	—
Miami	12	4	.750	1/2
Atlanta	10	5	.667	2
Chicago	9	8	.529	4
Brooklyn	11	6	.647	2
Philadelphia	10	8	.556	31/2
Boston	10	8	.556	31/2
Indiana	10	9	.526	4
Milwaukee	8	9	.471	5
Charlotte	7	10	.412	6
Orlando	7	11	.389	61/2
Detroit	6	14	.300	81/2
Cleveland	4	15	.211	10
Toronto	4	15	.211	10
Washington	2	13	.133	10

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	13	3	.813	1/2
San Antonio	15	4	.789	—
Oklahoma City	15	4	.789	—
L.A. Clippers	12	6	.667	21/2
Golden State	11	7	.611	31/2
Houston	9	8	.529	5
Utah	10	10	.500	51/2
L.A. Lakers	9	10	.474	6
Denver	9	10	.474	6
Minnesota	8	9	.471	6
Dallas	8	10	.444	61/2
Portland	8	11	.421	7
Phoenix	7	12	.368	8
Sacramento	5	12	.294	9
New Orleans	5	12	.294	9

Division leaders ranked in top four positions and best eight teams qualify for playoffs

Thursday's results
New York at Miami
Dallas at Phoenix
Wednesday's results
Indiana 99 Portland 92
New York 100 Charlotte 98
Boston 104 Minnesota 94
Golden State 104 Detroit 97
Atlanta 108 Denver 104
L.A. Lakers 103 New Orleans 87
Chicago 95 Cleveland 85
San Antonio 110 Milwaukee 99
Utah 87 Orlando 81
Sacramento 107 Toronto 100
L.A. Clippers 112 Dallas 90
Friday's games
Denver at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Boston at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Golden State at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Memphis at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Charlotte at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Houston at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Toronto at Utah, 9 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Oklahoma City, 9:30 p.m.
Orlando at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Saturday's games
Phoenix at L.A. Clippers, 3:30 p.m.
Golden State at Washington, 7 p.m.
San Antonio at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
New Orleans at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Memphis, 8 p.m.
New York at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Houston, 8 p.m.
Sacramento at Portland, 10 p.m.
Sunday's games
Toronto at L.A. Clippers, 3:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Brooklyn, 6 p.m.
Indiana at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.
Denver at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Orlando at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
Utah at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.

LATE WEDNESDAY

KINGS 107, RAPTORS 100

TORONTO (100)
Lowry 9-20 12-12 34, Pietrus 8-15 3-3 21, DeRozan 7-16 0-2 14, Davis 5-10 3-4 13, Bargnani 3-14 2-2 8, Johnson 1-1 2-2 4, Calderon 1-3 1-1 3, Valanciunas 1-4 1-2 3, Ross 0-3 0-0 0. Totals 35-86 24-28 100.
SACRAMENTO (107)
Cousins 11-18 3-3 25, Evans 7-16 7-12 23, Thompson 6-11 1-1 13, Salmons 4-7 2-2 12, Brooks 2-8 6-8 11, Fredette 2-5 2-2 7, Robinson 2-3 3-4 7, Johnson 3-5 0-1 6, Thornton 1-7 1-1 3, Hayes 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 38-82 25-34 107.

Toronto	29	18	29	24 —100
Sacramento	29	26	23	29 —107

3-Point Goals—Toronto 6-23 (Lowry 4-9, Pietrus 2-6, Bargnani 0-6, Calderon 0-1, Ross 0-1). Sacramento 6-15 (Evans 2-4, Brooks 1-3, Thornton 0-3, Salmons 2-2, Fredette 1-2, Cousins 0-1). **Rebounds—**Toronto 40 (Davis 11, Pietrus 6, DeRozan 5, Lowry 5, Johnson 4, Bargnani 3, Valanciunas 3, Ross 2, Calderon 1). Sacramento 47 (Cousins 13, Thompson 10, Johnson 8, Robinson 4, Hayes 3, Thornton 3, Salmons 2, Evans 2, Brooks 1, Fredette 1). **Assists—**Toronto 25 (Lowry 11). Sacramento 18 (Salmons 7). **Total Fouls—**Toronto 23, Sacramento 18. A—12,476 at Sacramento. T—2:23

GOLF

DUBAI LADIES MASTERS

At Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Par 72 (35-37)
Second Round

Shanshan Feng, China	66-67—131
Felicity Johnson, England	68-67—135
Cindy Lacrosse, United States	67-69—136
Joanna Klatten, France	71-65—136
Caroline Masson, Germany	68-68—136
Gwladys Nocera, France	68-68—136
Lexi Thompson, United States	69-68—137
Carlota Ciganda, Spain	70-68—138
Lorie Kane, Canada	68-70—138
Jennie Lee, United States	70-69—139
Bree Arthur, Australia	69-70—139
Lydia Hall, Wales	68-71—139
Beth Allen, United States	70-70—140
Caroline Hedwall, Sweden	69-71—140
Florentyna Parker, England	66-74—140
Klara Spilkova, Czech Republic	67-73—140
Julieta Granada, Paraguay	70-70—140
Dewi Claire Schreefel, Netherlands	69-71—140
Linda Wessberg, Sweden	70-70—140
Tandi Cuningham, South Africa	72-69—141

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

At Sysney
Par: 72
(a-amateur)
First Round

John Senden, Australia	34-32—66
Kim Felton, Australia	33-35—68
Justin Rose, England	36-32—68
Gareth Paddison, New Zealand	36-32—68
Richard Green, Australia	34-34—68
Brendan Jones, Australia	34-34—68
Stephen Allan, Australia	35-34—69
Nick Flanagan, Australia	34-35—69
Marcus Fraser, Australia	37-32—69
Peter O'Malley, Australia	35-35—70
Stuart Appleby, Australia	35-35—70
Nick Cullen, Australia	34-36—70
Mahal Pearce, New Zealand	35-35—70
Marc Leishman, Australia	36-34—70
Josh Geary, New Zealand	36-34—70
Paul Spargo, Australia	38-32—70
Timothy Wood, Australia	35-35—70
Mathew Goggin, Australia	36-35—71
Nick O'Hern, Australia	35-36—71
Peter Lonard, Australia	35-36—71

SOCCER

FIFA

CLUB WORLD CUP

PLAYOFF
At Yokohama, Japan
Thursday's result
Sanfrecce Hiroshima (Japan) 1, Auckland City (New Zealand) 0

UEFA

EUROPA LEAGUE

GROUP STAGE
Second Leg
Thursday's results
AEL Limassol (Cyprus) 3, Marseille (France) 0
Athletic Bilbao (Spain) 0, Sparta Prague (Czech Republic) 0
Bayer Leverkusen (Germany) 1, Rosenborg (Norway) 0
Bordeaux (France) 2, Newcastle United (England) 0
FC Copenhagen (Denmark) 1, Steaua Bucuresti (Romania) 1
FC Twente (Netherlands) 1, Helsingborgs IF (Sweden) 3
FK Dnipro (Ukraine) 4, AIK (Sweden) 0
Fenerbahce (Turkey) 0, Monchengladbach (Germany) 3
Genk (Belgium) 0, FC Basel (Switzerland) 0
Hapoel Tel Aviv (Israel) 2, Academica de Coimbra (Portugal) 0
Inter Milan (Italy) 2, Neftchi Baku (Azerbaijan) 2
Levante (Spain) 2, Hannover 96 (Germany) 2
Lyon (France) 2, Ironi Kiryat Shmona (Israel) 0
Maritimo (Portugal) 2, Club Brugge (Belgium) 1
NK Maribor (Slovenia) 1, Lazio (Italy) 4
Napoli (Italy) 1, PSV Eindhoven (Netherlands) 3
Partizan (Serbia) 1, Rubin Kazan (Russia) 1
Rapid Wien (Austria) 1, Metalist Kharkiv (Ukraine) 0
Tottenham Hotspur (England) 3, Panathinaikos (Greece) 1
Udinese (Italy) 0, Liverpool (England) 1
VfB Stuttgart (Germany) 0, Molde FK (Norway) 1
Viktoria Plzen (Czech Republic) 1, Atletico Madrid (Spain) 0
Young Boys (Switzerland) 3, Anzhi Makhachkala (Russia) 1

AHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Worcester	21	11	8	1	1	60	65	24
Manchester	21	10	8	2	1	55	53	23
St. John's	22	11	10	0	1	53	60	23
Portland	21	10	9	1	1	67	69	22
Providence	19	9	8	0	2	44	55	20

NORTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Springfield	20	12	4	1	3	70	42	28
Connecticut	21	10	9	2	0	67	72	22
Bridgeport	21	10	10	0	1	64	74	21
Adirondack	20	9	11	0	0	52	60	18
Albany	18	5	8	0	5	40	52	15

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Syracuse	20	13	5	1	1	74	55	28
Binghamton	18	12	4	1	1	57	44	26
W-B/Scranton	20	13	7	0	0	58	46	26
Hershey	21	9	11	1	0	55	62	19
Norfolk	20	9	11	0	0	59	65	18

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NORTH DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Abbotsford	22	13	4	3	2	58	43	31
Toronto	21	12	8	0	1	70	59	25
Lake Erie	22	11	9	1	1	70	70	24
Rochester	19	9	8	2	0	63	59	20
Hamilton	18	7	9	1	1	38	57	16

MIDWEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Rockford	22	12	9	0	1	73	67	25
Grand Rapids	20	11	7	1	1	67	60	24
Milwaukee	20	9	8	2	1	55	60	21
Chicago	20	9	8	2	1	56	62	21
Peoria	21	7	10	2	2	49	74	18

SOUTH

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Charlotte	21	12	7	0	2	70	61	26
Oklahoma City	20	11	6	1	2	66	59	25
Houston	20	11	6	1	2	67	59	25
Texas	21	11	8	1	1	53	59	24
San Antonio	22	8	11	0	3	58	65	19

Note: Two points awarded for a win, one for an overtime or shootout loss.
Thursday's result
Hershey at Norfolk
Lake Erie at Charlotte
Wednesday's results
Bridgeport 2 Connecticut 4
Peoria 2 Grand Rapids 1
Texas 2 Milwaukee 1 (OT)
San Antonio 4 Abbotsford 0
Friday's games
All Times Eastern
Springfield at St. John's, 6 p.m.
Lake Erie at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Adirondack at Rochester, 7:05 p.m.
Portland at Binghamton, 7:05 p.m.
Manchester at Providence, 7:05 p.m.
Hershey at W-B/Scranton, 7:05 p.m.
Hamilton at Syracuse, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Rockford, 8:05 p.m.
Houston at Texas, 8:30 p.m.
Grand Rapids at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 8
Bridgeport at Albany, 5 p.m.
Springfield at St. John's, 6 p.m.
Hamilton at Hershey, 7 p.m.
Syracuse at Adirondack, 7 p.m.
Connecticut at Manchester, 7 p.m.
Providence at Worcester, 7 p.m.
Rochester at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Portland at W-B/Scranton, 7:05 p.m.
Norfolk at Binghamton, 7:05 p.m.
Peoria at Texas, 8 p.m.
Oklahoma City at San Antonio, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Rockford, 8:05 p.m.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	9	3	0	.750	430	260
N.Y. Jets	5	7	0	.417	228	296
Miami	5	7	0	.417	227	249
Buffalo	5	7	0	.417	277	337

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Houston	11	1	0	.917	351	221
Indianapolis	8	4	0	.667	265	306
Tennessee	4	8	0	.333	248	359
Jacksonville	2	10	0	.167	206	342

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	9	3	0	.750	303	242
Pittsburgh	7	5	0	.583	254	230
Cincinnati	7	5	0	.583	302	260
Cleveland	4	8	0	.333	229	265

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	9	3	0	.750	349	244
San Diego	4	8	0	.333	258	257
Oakland	3	9	0	.250	235	376
Kansas City	2	10	0	.167	188	322

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	7	5	0	.583	321	243
Washington	6	6	0	.500	312	301
Dallas	6	6	0	.500	280	295
Philadelphia	3	9	0	.250	217	320

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Atlanta	11	1	0	.917	317	229
Tampa Bay	6	6	0	.500	333	285
New Orleans	5	7	0	.417	321	327
Carolina	3	9	0	.250	235	292

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	8	4	0	.667	296	259
Chicago	8	4	0	.667	294	198
Minnesota	6	6	0	.500	262	272
Detroit	4	8	0	.333	300	315

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	8	3	1	.708	289	171
Seattle	7	5	0	.583	242	202
St. Louis	5	6	1	.458	221	267
Arizona	4	8	0	.333	186	234

x — clinched playoff berth; **y** — clinched division.

WEEK 14

Thursday's result
Denver at Oakland
Sunday's games — All Times Eastern
St. Louis at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Dallas at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at Washington, 1 p.m.
San Diego at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Kansas City at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Chicago at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Miami at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.
New Orleans at N.Y. Giants, 4:25 p.m.
Arizona at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.
Detroit at Green Bay, 8:20 p.m.
Monday's game
Houston at New England, 8:30 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BOSTON RED SOX—Acquired RHP Kyle Kaminska from Pittsburgh to complete an earlier trade and assigned him to Pawtucket (IL). Agreed to terms with RHP Koji Uehara.
DETROIT TIGERS—Acquired 2B Jeff Kobernus from Boston Red Sox for INF-OF Justin Henry.
MINNESOTA TWINS—Acquired RHP Vance Worley and RHP Trevor May from Philadelphia for OF Ben Revere.
TAMPA BAY RAYS—Agreed to terms with 1B James Loney on a one-year contract.
TEXAS RANGERS—Sent RHP Wilfredo Boscan to San Diego to complete an earlier trade. Agreed to terms with 1B-DH Brandon Allen, RHP Jake Brigham, RHP Evan Meek and RHP Randy Wells on minor league contracts.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

ATLANTA BRAVES—Agreed to terms with OF Reed Johnson on a one-year contract.
NEW YORK METS—Traded LHP Kyle Lobstein to Detroit for cash.

NBA

TORONTO RAPTORS—Assigned F Quincy Acy to Bakersfield (NBADL).

NFL

BUFFALO BILLS—Signed OT Chris Scott from Tennessee's practice squad. Placed OT Chris Hairston on injured reserve.
CINCINNATI BENGALS—Signed K Josh Brown. Waived C Jeff Faine.
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS—Placed DL Allen Bailey on injured reserve. Signed LB Leon Williams.
NEW YORK GIANTS—Placed OT Sean Locklear on injured reserve. Signed OL Selvish Capers from the practice squad. Signed OL Paul Fenaroli to the practice squad.
NEW YORK JETS—Signed S Antonio Allen from the practice squad. Signed CB Donnie Fletcher to the practice squad.

ECHL

ECHL—Fined Ontario's Kyle Clifford an undisclosed amount for a violation of the league's exclusive equipment policy.

MLS

COLORADO RAPIDS—Signed MF Pablo Mastroeni to a one-year contract.

U.S. COLLEGE

AUBURN—Named Ellis Johnson defensive coordinator.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You can be successful on a material level but you will also have to take on some heavy responsibilities. Are you prepared to do that? It's important that you decide one way or the other before making your next move.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You may doubt that you are up to the task that has been set for you, but you must not let those doubts take hold. Think of life as a wonderful adventure. It's how you play the game.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Group activities are under the spotlight today and you may meet someone who has a profound effect on the way you look at the world. If you feel it is your destiny to do something special, you will soon get the chance.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
If you want to make a name for yourself, now is the time to begin. Set new goals and start long-term projects. Just make sure you know what the consequences will be. This isn't for fun, this is serious.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Unexpected delays may frustrate you today, and maybe into the weekend, but there is nothing you can do about them. So, lighten up. The scenery may pass slowly but that gives you more time to enjoy it.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Your money situation may be going through an up and down phase, but the planets indicate that real wealth is within your grasp. You'll change the way you think about what you own and earn over the next 24 hours.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Someone you usually get along with so well is hard to get through to today. It's as if there is an invisible barrier between you. Don't worry, it's nothing serious. They just need to be left alone with their thoughts for a while.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
Don't worry if a plan or project you have been working on for months, maybe even years, is still not complete. It's a long-term project, after all. Having said that, see how far you can move it forward today.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
At some point today, you will realize that what seems like harmless enjoyment to you may not be so harmless to other people. It's important to remember that you don't live in a vacuum. Actions always have consequences.

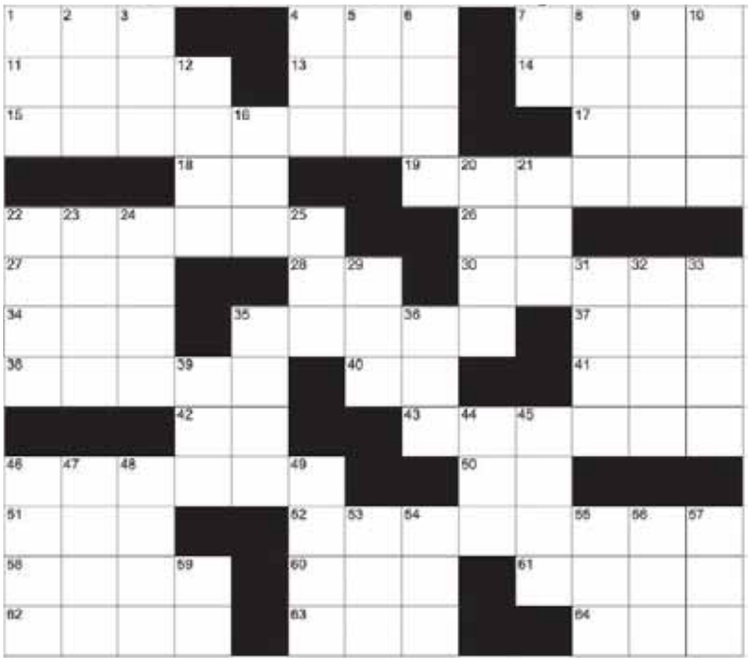
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Something will happen over the next two or three days that reminds you of your responsibilities. Most important of all is your duty to loved ones. How can you help ease a relative's pain?

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Others may wonder why you are so difficult to get through to but even an Aquarius needs to spend some time alone. Come the weekend you will be your old self again, open and happy and eager to share.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
The limitations and restrictions of the past few days will start to lift and by Monday, at the latest, you will be free to pursue your own interests. Hopefully, those limitations will have taught you the importance of timing. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword

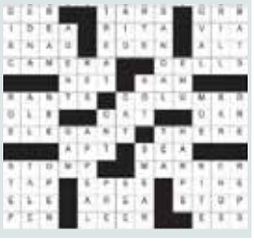
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. — carte (2 wds)
4. Family Ties actor: Michael J. —
7. A softened oath
11. Painted metalware
13. Mine yield
14. Withered
15. Type of stew
17. "The Crying Game" actor Stephen —
18. Commercial message
19. Seem
22. Where ends meet
26. Common Latin abbr.
27. Latin 101 verb
28. Contented sigh
30. Dims
34. Funnyman Conway
35. Rise and —
37. Fury
38. Cubic metre
40. Courtroom figure (abbr.)
41. For shame!
42. Apiece (abbr.)
43. Extremely bright
46. Designer McCartney
50. Musical note
51. — Ramsey
52. Sloppy
58. Crew needs
60. The Royal Canadian — Farce
61. Boxcar rider
62. Factual
63. On the authority of
64. Coal container

Down
1. Banking convenience
2. Role for Ed Asner
3. — My Children
4. Haze
5. Openings (anat.)
6. Warrior princess of TV
7. Plural suffix
8. "An Officer and a Gentleman" actor
9. Locale
10. Letter starter
12. Zest
16. Chemical suffix
20. Tube
21. Small green veggie
22. Broadway musical
23. Overlook
24. Italian capital
25. Bleachers cheer
29. Concealed
31. Boost
32. Lake near Niagara Falls
33. Flower starter
35. Fasten tightly
36. Henpeck
39. Family mem.
44. Brat
45. Child's card game: Go —
46. Photographed
47. Shed one of these
48. Beige shade
49. On the double
53. Fib
54. Like some verbs (abbr.)
55. Peg
56. Sash
57. Put on
59. Opposite of NW

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

8		4		5		2	6	
	1	9						
			3					9
5		2	1					
7			6		5			2
					2	8		7
1					4			
						6	3	
	2	5		8		4		1

Yesterday's Sudoku

6	7	9	2	1	5	8	4	3
1	8	5	9	4	3	2	6	7
4	2	3	7	6	8	5	1	9
9	3	2	4	7	1	6	5	8
5	4	6	8	3	9	7	2	1
7	1	8	6	5	2	9	3	4
2	5	1	3	8	7	4	9	6
3	6	7	5	9	4	1	8	2
8	9	4	1	2	6	3	7	5

Today 4°/-4° Rain and snow 40%
Saturday 2°/-5° Rain and snow 60%
Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
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2. Our friendly and professional staff will test your items right in front of you and involve you in every step.
3. You walk away with a cheque.

WHAT WE PAY

Gold Buying Prices by Karat

Karat | Price/gram

1 ounce (9999) Maple Leaf Coins (sealed)	$1,607.29/coin
9999 Canada Maple leaf, less than 1 ounce	$51.68/g
24k Jewellery	$40.27/g
22k	$36.89/g
E. Indian/Nuggets	$32.70/g
18k	$30.20/g
14k and dental	$23.48/g
10k	$16.75/g
9k	$15.10/g
8k/antique gold	$10.07/g

Gold Bar Buying Prices

Gold Bars | Buy Price

Gold 1 ounce (Recognized)	$1,557.07
Gold 10 ounce (Recognized)	$15,486.95
Gold 1kg (Recognized)	$49,790.56
Gold bars, less than 1 ounce (Recognized)	$49.80/g
999 Gold bar (Unrecognized)	$48.45/g

Silver Coin, Bars, and Jewellery Buying Prices - Canada Coins | Price

Maple Leaf (1 ounce Silver)	$31.70/coin

Silver Jewellery and Other Silver | Price

Stamped Sterling Silver Flatware	$0.62/g
Stamped Sterling Silver Jewellery	$0.59/g
Mexican Silver stamped 925	$0.50/g
Stamped 800 Silver	$0.48/g
Unstamped scrap silver	$0.32/g
Other silver coins	$0.66/g

*Actual buying prices are based on weight of silver content, which is lower for worn coins.

Prices Updated: 2012-12-06, 14:47:16 PM

Example Purchase 1:

Purity: 14k • Weight: 193.50g

PRICE: $4,543.38

Example Purchase 2:

Purity: 24k • Weight: 6.42g

PRICE: $258.53

Example Purchase 3:

Purity: 14k • Weight: 183.30g

PRICE: $4,303.88

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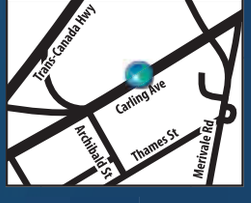

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